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The

Taranaki Rifle Volunteers

N.Z.

A Corps with a History.

Being a Chronicle of the formation and achievements of the first British Volunteer Corps to become engaged with an enemy in the field; from 1859 to 1909.

Compiled from the Taranaki Herald, Official Records, and other sources

By W. J. PENN.

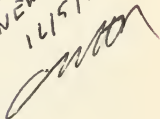
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NEW ZEALAND
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New Plymouth, N.Z.

Thomas Avery, Printer and Publisher, Devon Street,
1909.

PREFACE.

SOME time ago it occurred to Captain F. T. Bellringer, then in command of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps, that the approaching fiftieth anniversary of its formation would be a fitting occasion for the publication of a history of the corps. He approached a member of the staff of the "Taranaki Herald," who undertook to compile a history. Owing, however, to a change of plans he had to resign the commission, which the present writer then took up. Indifferent health and the superior claims of his daily newspaper work have, unfortunately, delayed the publication of the volume some months later than was intended, but when it is stated that the compilation of the history has involved searching more or less closely the files of the "Taranaki Herald" over a period of fifty years, as well as references to several books relating to the Maori wars, the writer's excuses will no doubt be readily accepted.

The Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps' chief claim to distinction is that, while not actually the first Volunteer Company to be enrolled in New Zealand, it was the first British Volunteer Company to become engaged with an enemy on the battlefield. This was on the occasion of the Battle of Waireka, which took place on March 28, 1860, an engagement which had a very important influence upon white settlement in this part of New Zealand. The object of the force in going out to Waikaka that day was, not to fight, but to rescue a number of settlers,

whose lives were threatened by the hostile Maoris. The Waikato and Taranaki Maoris had planned to attack the town of New Plymouth that night, with a combined force of about 1500 warriors. The town was quite undefended by fortifications, and had to rely for protection upon a detachment of the 65th Regiment, the Volunteers and the Militia. How the engagement at Waireka resulted will be read within these pages. It had the effect of causing the hostile forces on both sides of the town to retire, and it is confidently believed that had not this blow been struck at Waireka the town would have been destroyed that night. As it was, the Natives never again actually threatened the town.

Necessarily, after the lapse of half a century, memories are sometimes at fault, and as there are very few official records available, it may be that inaccuracies have crept into the following narrative. There is, for instance, no official roll of the first T.R.V. Company. The writer, however, has consulted all the available authorities, and, in addition, has had the assistance of many old Volunteers in compiling the history of the Corps. To these and especially to Captain Bellinger he is deeply indebted. In passing the result of his researches on to the public he craves indulgence for numerous imperfections.

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THE TARANAKI RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.

CHAPTER I.

IN the month of February, 1858, owing to the somewhat threatening attitude of the Maoris on this coast, the Government called out for military training and exercise the New Plymouth Battalion of New Zealand Militia. Some 300 men responded to the call and submitted themselves to military discipline. A few months later, on August 31st to be exact, they were disbanded by order of the Government, on the ground that the cost could no longer be afforded. Each man received £1 and a soldier's great coat. The Maoris were still inclined to be aggressive, and it was felt that a local defence force was indispensable. A meeting was accordingly held in the Masonic Hall, on September 11th, of persons interested in organising a volunteer corps. Mr. R. Phenev, formerly editor of the Taranaki Herald, presided, and it was resolved—(1) "That a committee be appointed to consider the steps requisite to be taken for obtaining his Excellency the Governor's sanction for the enrolment and arming of volunteers, and also to frame rules and regulations for their government; and that the committee report thereon to a future meeting"; (2) "That the committee consist of the following persons:—Messrs. J. C. Richmond, R. Brown, H. Atkinson, E. L. Humphries and W. Halse"; and (3) "That the proposed force be designated the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps."

This was the birth, not only of a volunteer corps which became famous in after years, but of a movement which soon spread to other provinces. The New Zealander, an Auckland newspaper, on November 20th, 1858, in recording the formation of two volunteer corps in that city—"The

Royal" and "The City" Volunteer Rifles—said that "recent events in the Old World show that pacific professions often cover insidious and hostile designs; and it is no longer matter of doubt that, if the colonies wish to be preserved from the consequences of any such attempt, the Mother Country looks upon them as all but old enough to take their own part. New Plymouth has led the way in this patriotic work—Auckland City is doing her share; we believe her example will shortly be followed by the settlers of Whangarei and other districts of this province; and we shall be glad to see the other provinces follow suit."

It is, however, our present purpose to follow the fortunes of the Taranaki Rifles. On November 5th the Colonial Secretary (Mr. E. W. Stafford) notified his Honour the Superintendent that so soon as a corps had been regularly formed the Government would supply rifles for the purpose of arming it. On December 18th the Taranaki Herald announced that the rifles and accoutrements for the corps had been received by the Adjutant of Militia. The rifles supplied had, the paper went on to say, all the latest improvements that had been made in this deadly weapon of modern warfare, and though lighter, and shorter than the Enfield, with which the British Army was armed, was a more effective weapon, its range being 1100 yards, or 200 yards in excess of the Enfield. The whole of the iron work was blued, by which means the reflecting quality of the bright metal was prevented. At the same time the regulations drawn up and forwarded for his Excellency's approval were returned for amendment.

On January 13th, 1859, the following proclamation was issued by his Excellency the Governor. —

PROCLAMATION.

"In pursuance of the authority in me invested by the 'Militia Act, 1858,' I, Thomas Gore Browne, Governor of the Colony of New Zealand, do hereby make and ordain the following Regulations respecting the training and exercise, arms and accoutrements, clothing and equipments, of a Company of Volunteers enrolled in the district of Taranaki,

under an Order-in-Council dated the thirteenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine.

“ 1. The Company shall be called ‘The Taranaki Volunteer Rifle Company,’ and shall consist of one Captain, two Lieutenants, four Sergeants, four Corporals, and ninety-two Privates.

“ 2. The arms will be a rifle and bayonet, with accoutrements to be issued by the Adjutant to each Volunteer, the value of which, for determining the amount to be paid in case of loss or damage, is hereby fixed at six pounds six shillings.

“ 3. The Company shall be divided into the following local subdivisions, viz., the Town, Grey, Omata, and Bell and Hua, and each Volunteer shall belong to such one of the subdivisions as he shall think fit.

“ 4. Drill shall be local and general. The several subdivisions shall meet for local drill as follows:—The Town—at some place within the Town of New Plymouth or Town Belt; the Grey—at some place within the Grey Block; the Omata—at some place within the Omata Block; the Bell and Hua—at some place within the Bell or the Hua Block. Such places of meeting and the times thereof to be from time to time fixed by the Captain of the Company.

“ 5. The general drill shall be at such times and places as the Captain of the Company shall from time to time fix for that purpose, subject to the approval of the Governor.

“ 6. Provided always that the time required for attendance on general drill shall not exceed forty-two hours within the year.

“ Given under my hand at Government House, at Auckland, this thirteenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine.

“ T. GORE BROWNE.”

On Saturday, January 29th, 1859, a public

meeting was held at the Masonic Hall to receive the report of the Committee authorised to take steps to organise the Company. Mr. Charles Brown presided, and Mr. W. Halse, chairman of the Committee, informed the meeting what had been done. Major Lloyd then administered the oath to the Volunteers present, and Mr. Halse warmly eulogised Major Lloyd's exertions to promote the success of the corps.

A fortnight later, on February 12th, at a general meeting of members at the Masonic Hall, the nomination of officers took place. Nine gentlemen were nominated—two only being members of the Company—and the election resulted in the selection of Mr. Isaac Watt for Captain, Mr. James Hirst for First Lieutenant, and Mr. Robert Chisenhall Hamerton for Second Lieutenant. (Captain Watt, it may be remarked, was the first Speaker of the Taranaki Provincial Council in 1853.) The appointments were gazetted on February 25th, the Commissions dating from February 12th.

On February 26th, 1859, pursuant to a Requisition from the Adjutant, a meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Captain Watt presiding, to consider the subject of uniform and drill. A resolution in favour of the adoption of some uniform was carried unanimously, and after some discussion the meeting approved of the following as appropriate, inexpensive, and available (if required) for ordinary use of drill: cap, tunic, and trousers (with black piping) of grey tweed—white trousers during the summer months. It was further decided that a general drill should take place on the military parade ground on the first Saturday in every month.

Following is the original roll of the Company:—
 Captain I. N. Watt, Lieutenant J. Hirst, Ensign R. C. Hamerton, Colour-Sergeant Stevens, Sergeants W. H. Free, E. Hollis, P. McCoy, W. Spurdle, Corporals John Allen, H. Atkinson, G. Bertrand, S. Howell, Bugler W. Francis, Drummers W. Black jun. and W. Lawrence, Privates Adams, Charles Allan, A. Arden, A. Atkinson, W. Atkinson, D. Atkinson, John Antridge, R. Baker, I. Bayly, James Bayly, Arthur Bayly, Daniel Bayly, G. Bayley, R. Bayley, P. Bayley, W. Black,

John Black, W. Brooking, R. Brown, Billiard, Burford, C. Crowhurst, John Carriek, M. Carriek, G. Curtis, M. Dixon, Fuller, Gardner, W. I. Grayling, Thomas George, John Gilmour, R. W. Greenwood, W. Ginger, John Ginger, L. A. Hamerton, W. Halse, W. Hay, G. B. Haigh, E. Hammond, C. Hamblyn, G. Hoby sen., G. Hoby jun., N. Hooker, E. L. Humphries, C. Wilson Hursthouse, L. Ibbotson, M. Jones, G. Jupp, Thomas Kelly, John Kelly, C. B. Lawrence, Leatham, P. Martin, C. Messenger, G. Messenger, W. T. Messenger, James Minus, John McDonald, D. McDonald, J. S. McKellar, E. T. Morshead, S. Nash, F. Gliver, T. Patten, R. Phenev, R. Pitcairn, John Pope, R. Pope, C. Rasmon, C. E. Rawson, F. Rawson, H. Rawson, Richardson, G. F. Robinson, John Roberts, F. Ronalds, W. Rundle, R. Rundle, Sheppee R. Smith, S. Percy Smith, Frank Standish, Arthur Standish, F. St. George, H. Skinner, T. Veale, P. Vercoe, A. Vercoe, G. L. Ward, W. D. Webster, F. L. Webster, Cal. Wilson, W. Weston, G. W. Woon, Charles Wilson.

All the preliminaries having by this time been arranged, active work commenced. The first drill was held in the town district on Monday, March 14th, 1859, and thereafter every Monday. On Tuesdays the members in the Tataraimaku district met in the field of Mr. Greenwood, and those in the Omata district in the field of Mr. McKellar. For the Grey district the parade ground was the field of Mr. R. Lethbridge, jun., and Thursday the drill day, while on Fridays the Bell and Hua district division met in the field opposite the Bell Inn. The Herald reported on March 19th that all the subdivisions had met for local drill during the week, and the manner in which they had acquitted themselves with the new weapon was favourably spoken of. The members themselves were observed to take great interest in everything connected with their duties and discipline, a sure guarantee for the permanence of the Force. It was also announced that it was in contemplation to establish a band in connection with the company. To this end a meeting was held at Mr. Manby's Musical Hall on April 2nd, when twenty-

one names of Volunteers willing to join a band were handed in. Mr. Manby offered twelve months' gratuitous service as instructor, at the end of which time he guaranteed sufficient proficiency for public performance. His Excellency the Governor subscribed five guineas, and an order for instruments was despatched. Mr. R. C. Hamerton was the first bandmaster.

Probably the first public parade of the Taranaki Volunteer Rifle Company was on the Queen's Birthday, May 24th, 1859, when, in spite of stormy and tempestuous weather, some sixty members of the company mustered and showed their loyalty, with wet skins. There was no parade of Her Majesty's troops and no salute from the battery, a fact which met with some comment. On August 1st the Volunteers paraded in their new uniforms, of grey Nelson cloth, with red facings.

The members of the corps were very keen upon carrying out their duties with efficiency, and the officers were in the habit of giving lectures to the men on the subject. On one occasion, in October, 1859, Captain Watt gave a lecture to the Omata division on the use of the Enfield rifle, illustrating his remarks with diagrams drawn in chalk upon the outer walls of a building. Shortly afterwards a complaint was received from the Rev. Thomas Gilbert that the walls of the Primitive Methodist Chapel had been used as a blackboard. Captain Watt had to explain that he did not know the building was a place of worship. By the end of the year such a state of efficiency had been attained that the authorities reduced the number of general parades and district drills.

On January 3rd, 1860, a general parade was held and a sham fight took place. The force was divided into two companies of fifty men each, one forming an ambuscade near the racecourse. After a smart interchange of firing under cover of the high fern in the neighbourhood, a general attack on the ambuscade was made at the point of the bayonet, and the enemy routed.

Very soon afterwards the company was to have an experience of real fighting, for the attitude of the Maoris was becoming more threatening.

CHAPTER II.

On February 22nd, 1860, martial law was proclaimed by the Governor, Colonel Thomas Gore Browne. What led to this important step was the resistance of the Maoris to Mr. O. Carrington's survey party at Waitara. The notice was as follows:—

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency Colonel Thomas Gore Browne, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, etc., etc., etc.

WHEREAS Active Military operations are about to be undertaken by the Queen's Forces against Natives in the Province of Taranaki, in arms against Her Majesty's Sovereign Authority, Now I, the Governor, do hereby proclaim and declare that **MARTIAL LAW** will be exercised throughout the said Province of Taranaki until the relief of the said district from Martial Law by public Proclamation.

Given under my hand and issued under the Public Seal of the Colony of New Zealand, at Government House, at Auckland, this twenty-fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

THOMAS GORE BROWNE.

By His Excellency's command,
E. W. Stafford.

God Save the Queen!

Published 22nd February, 1860.

G. F. Murray,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding Troops.

NOTICE.

It having become necessary to issue the Government's proclamation, placing the District under Martial Law, I deem it advisable, in order to prevent unnecessary alarm among the settlers, to assure them that should events lead to actual collision with the Natives, due notice will be given to enable them to provide for the safety of their families.

G. F. MURRAY,
Lieut.-Colonel Commanding Troops.

On March 1st, 1860, His Excellency the Governor appointed Charles St. John Herbert, Esq., to be Major Commanding the Taranaki Volunteer Rifles, the commission bearing date February 27th.

In the early part of March the Corps paraded frequently and assisted in picketing the town and outskirts. Communications passing between the Governor and Wi Kingi indicated the likelihood of active hostilities. The troops of the garrison, to the number of about 400, left New Plymouth early on the morning of March 5th to occupy Teira's land at Waitara, leaving only one officer and a few men of the 65th Regiment to protect the barracks and magazine. Preparations were therefore made by Major Herbert for the defence of the town by the Volunteers and Militia. A picket of twenty-five occupied a part of the iron store at the corner of Devon and Currie Streets, and posted sentinels nightly up Currie Street and the Carrington Road. Another picket was stationed in a building near Captain Bulkeley's residence in Vivian Street, just below Mr. R. C. Hughes's present residence, and posted men nightly at different points from the beach up Dawson Street, and by a cross street to the Infant Schoolroom (now a portion of St. Mary's Schoolrooms), where another picket was stationed. On the night of Wednesday, March 14th, several of the Volunteers turned out under arms, owing to reports of firearms being heard in the direction of the Waiwakaiho.

On Friday, March 16th, an open air meeting of the Taranaki Volunteers was held after parade to nominate additional officers, the force having increased from 100 to 180 men since the disturbed

state of the province. On March 21st the Governor made the following appointments, to date from March 19th:—Sergeant Harry A. Atkinson to be Captain; Second Lieutenant R. C. Hamerton to be First Lieutenant; Private Frederick L. Webster to be Second Lieutenant; and Lance-Sergeant Matthew Jonas, jun., to be Second Lieutenant. The corps was divided into two companies, No. 1 being commanded by Captain Watt, with Lieutenants Hirst and F. L. Webster, and No. 2 by Captain Atkinson, with Lieutenants R. C. Hamerton and M. Jonas.

On Saturday, March 17th, hostilities between the two races broke out, the first shot being fired at Waitara. As this narrative does not pretend to be a history of the war, but merely of the Taranaki Volunteer Rifle Corps, it is not intended to relate why and how the peace was thus disturbed. There was intense excitement in New Plymouth when the report of artillery was heard in the direction of Waitara. Three companies of the 65th Regiment were engaged, together with a rocket tube detachment from H.M.S. Niger, a detachment of the Royal Artillery with three howitzers, and 20 Mounted Volunteers under Captain Des Voeux. Of the latter, J. Sarten was dangerously wounded. He died a few days later, the first civilian victim to a Maori bullet.

Immediately on the news of the outbreak of hostilities reaching town strict orders were given to the Militia and Volunteers on no account to quit their respective posts. Strong guards were posted round the town during the night, as it was not known what might be the next step on the part of the rebel Maoris. Nothing of importance, however, occurred until Sunday, March 25th, when, shortly after 4 a.m., 130 of the Taranaki Rifles and Militia mustered on receiving a call for the purpose, and with 200 men of the 65th Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel Murray, marched for Ratapihipihi, where a large number of Natives had gathered from down the coast and were committing depredations. The force left town a little before 4 a.m., and reached Ratapihipihi before daylight. The Volunteers, led by Major Herbert, formed the vanguard, and advanced in skirmishing order under Captain Stapp within hearing and sight of the

Natives before they were observed. The movement being merely a reconnaissance, and an order on no account to engage the rebels in the forest having been issued before the expedition started, the Volunteers fell back upon the troops in good order without provoking attack.

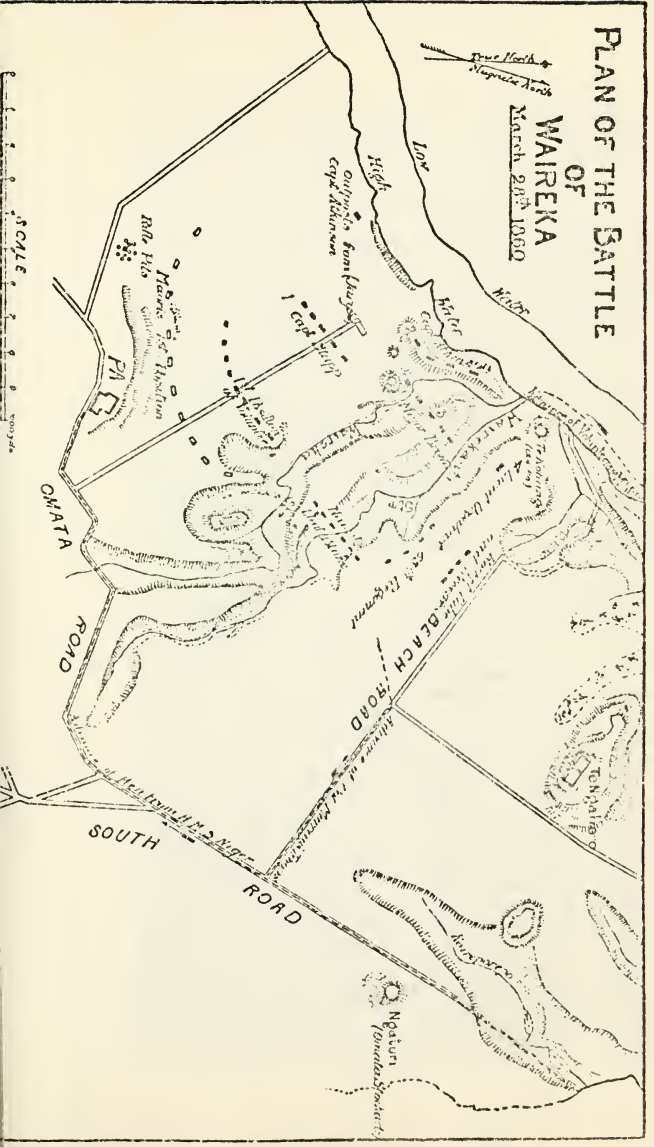
On the following day shots were heard in the direction of Ratapihipihi, supposed to be the insurgents welcoming others arriving, but no active steps were taken against them. Several Volunteers and Militia were sent out to erect small stockades on different positions, dig rifle pits, and strengthen the Kawau pa.

On the evening of Tuesday, March 27th, intelligence was brought into town of a savage murder at Omata. Three settlers—S. Ford, H. Passmore, and S. Shaw—were shot down on the road beyond the Omata Inn by natives concealed behind a furze hedge, and afterwards tomahawked. Two boys, named Pote and Parker, were also missing, and on the following morning news reached town that their bodies had been found, tomahawked, by the Rev. H. H. Brown. The bodies were brought in to the military hospital, and preparations for revenge were at once made. No. 10 company of the 65th Regiment, commanded by Colonel Murray, 25 bluejackets from H.M.S. Niger under Lieutenant Blake, and 160 Volunteers and Militia under Captains Brown, Stapp and Atkinson, proceeded to rescue the Rev. Mr. Brown's family and others. Before the departure of the Volunteers they were drawn up and addressed by the Governor in a few cheering words on the nature of their duties, and the hopes he placed on their giving a good account of themselves. The alarm signal was given by the firing of two guns from Marsland Hill, which brought all the inhabitants into town. The expedition started about noon, the Volunteer Rifles being under the command of Captain Harry Atkinson and Lieutenants James Hirst, R. C. Hamerton, F. L. Webster and Matthew Jonas. Amid the excitement which prevailed it was probably not thought of that the men were marching to the first engagement which British Volunteers had had with an enemy.

PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF WAIREKA

March 28th 1869

True North
Magnetic North



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CHAPTER III.

As it is intended only to follow the fortunes of the Taranaki Volunteer Rifles, and not to give a full description of the battle of Waireka, it will probably be best to quote the official report of Captain Charles Brown, who was in command of the Volunteers and Militia on the occasion.

"The force left town at half-past one on the afternoon of March 28th, 1860, composed as follows:— Captain Brown, in command; Captain and Adjutant Stapp, Militia; Captain H. A. Atkinson, Volunteer Rifles; Lieutenant McKechney, Militia; Lieutenant McKellar, Militia; Lieutenant Hirst, Volunteer Rifles; Lieutenant Hamerton, Volunteer Rifles; Second Lieutenant Webster, Volunteer Rifles; Second Lieutenant Jonas, Volunteer Rifles; Ensign Messenger, Militia. Rank and file: Militia 52, Volunteer Rifles 98.

After a quick march of about two hours we reached the stream Waireka, where it runs on to the beach. We here perceived that the Natives were rapidly running down from their pa, about a mile off, on the Waireka hill, to meet us. We were, however, able to get into position without difficulty on the high land in the following manner, under Captain Stapp's direction:—

A company of Volunteers, under Captain Atkinson, were thrown forward and reached the high ground on the south side of the Waireka, driving back the Natives; but greater numbers of the enemy coming on both flanks, Captain Stapp, who had joined and taken command, ordered a retreat on position No. 1, shown in the enclosed tracing by the Provincial Surveyor, the position consisting of a house, stack, and furze and rail fences on level ground on the brink of two gullies running out on the beach. From this point Captain Atkinson was moved on to No. 2, to cover the rear of the main body. Lieutenant Hirst with his company

occupied No. 3, and was joined by Lieutenant McKechney and myself, when I pushed Lieutenant Hirst forward to endeavour to occupy the bush in the Waireka gully, under cover of which the Natives were swarming, and followed myself. Lieutenant Blake and a party of the Niger's men having thrown themselves in advance by another route, I directed Lieutenant Hirst to turn his attention to the Natives on the lower and open part of the Waireka gully, whence they were annoying Captain Atkinson's party as well as our own. Lieutenant Hirst, having done some execution, passed across the gully by No. 2 to Captain Stapp at No. 1. The Natives soon made us aware that they possessed pieces of long range, against which our muskets were of no use, and I had to fall back on the scanty cover at No. 3, where I had not been long when Lieutenant Urquhart, 65th Regiment, with some 25 men joined me, as also some stragglers of the Naval Brigade, and some Volunteers from the Omata stockade, under Lieutenant Armstrong, Militia, and Lieutenant McNaughten, R.A. With their assistance we drove the Natives out of sight into a straggling and slight line of cover in the gully that runs into the Waireka, and as I perceived the intention of the Natives was to intercept our line of retreat to the Omata stockade by occupying the cover of flax between Nos. 3 and 4, I requested Lieutenant Urquhart to leave me a few men, and with the remainder occupy No. 4, thus placing the Natives creeping along the gully between two fires and securing our communication with the Omata stockade; to my surprise and regret Lieutenant Urquhart had not many minutes occupied No. 4 before I saw him and his men retire, recalled, as I am informed by Colonel Murray, by his orders. The position commanded my own, was uncommanded by any other, had open and level country between it and the Omata stockade, and had excellent cover of flax at the edge of the position to seaward. When the Natives saw them retire they called out "Kia hohoro, Kia hohoro," and boldly ran along the open part of the gully to the cover on the north side of the Waireka, bringing themselves under the murderous fire of Captain Atkinson, which

dropped them in twos and threes about the ground. At this time, finding my position untenable and valueless to the Natives, I ordered our wounded and dead to be carried to Captain Stapp's position. These consisted of one of the marines of H.M.S. Niger, wounded in the head and since died, one militiaman shot through the neck, and Sergeant Fahey, of the stockade at Omata, shot dead; the first and last were shot by the same Native, who was himself shot by Mr. P. Wilson with a fowling piece.

I then sent my men to join Captain Stapp, while I went to see Captain Atkinson, who joined me in going to see Captain Stapp and conferring with him. When I saw the extensive defences we should have to maintain at this place and their weak nature, I was of opinion that the whole force should be concentrated at No. 1. Captain Stapp and Captain Atkinson differed with me, and considered that No. 2 ought to be maintained to the last. I gave way to their opinions, and am happy to say their judgment proved correct, as Captain Atkinson from his position killed at least two-thirds of the Natives that were killed. We then proceeded at No. 1 to make our position defensible by throwing up breast works of sheaves of oats and fencing, so as to enable us to enfilade our position. While thus employed we became aware of the diversion effected in our favour by the attack on the pa by Captain Cracroft, R.N., and his Naval Brigade, and which I considered enabled us to retreat after dark unmolested. Had my men been concentrated at No. 1, I would have endeavoured to ascertain what had taken place at the pa with a view of joining Captain Cracroft; but under the circumstances, very few charges of ammunition being left, and believing that the retreat of our wounded by No. 4, the shortest route, would be open after dark, in consequence of the diversion effected, I determined to remain in our positions till the moon had set, when Captain Stapp took charge of the advance to No. 4, followed by the wounded, and thence on to the Omata stockade. I told off the men by fours, and marched from No. 1, one four just keeping the other in sight. When the last four had left No. 1, I went to

Captain Atkinson and directed him to follow with his men and eight men of the 65th who had been left with us, and who did us gallant service, also three men from the Naval Brigade and the party from the garrison of the Omata stockade.

Where everyone behaved so well it would be invidious, not to say impossible, to recommend particular officers or men for particular notice. I will, therefore, limit myself to commending the gallantry and coolness of Captains Stapp and Atkinson, of Lieutenant Urquhart, 65th, and of Private Inch of the Volunteers, who shot two Natives after he had himself received a wound across his chest. The casualties are as follows, in my detachment:—

Killed—Sergeant Fahey, Militia.

Wounded—Lieutenant Hamerton, Volunteer Rifles; Private W. Bayly, Militia; Private J. Climo, Militia; Private J. Hawken, Volunteer Rifles; Private P. Inch, Volunteer Rifles; Private Messenger, Volunteer Rifles; Private W. Oliver, Militia; Private F. Rawson, Volunteer Rifles.

I am happy to state that the wounded, though not all out of danger, are all doing well.

I have carefully estimated the number of the enemy killed at not less than thirty, besides wounded.—I have, etc.,

CHARLES BROWN,

Senior Captain of Taranaki Militia.

MAJOR HERBERT,

Commanding Militia and Volunteers."

In his book on "New Zealand Settlers and Soldiers; or, The War in Taranaki," the Rev. Thomas Gilbert describes at some length the part taken by the Volunteers in the Battle of Waireka. He questioned "whether it was very soldier-like to send raw undisciplined men, even although under the care and command of courageous men like Captains Brown, Stapp and Atkinson, upon so hazardous a mission. But the military orders were, 'On no account take the men to or near the bush; and be back into town before dusk.'"

Proceeding, Mr. Gilbert says:—"The Volunteers and Militia made their way over the loose

iron-sand at a smart pace, and on arriving at a point beyond Herekawe, about a mile from the great Sugar-loaf Rock, the insurgents were seen pouring down towards the beach, along the edge of the gully below Mr. John Jury's house. Captain Atkinson was sent forward with fifty men in skirmishing order, and these men were the first to receive fire. It was some minutes before the main body joined them, and in this interval the advanced party were hard pressed and thrown into disorder for a moment—on a young man, F. Rawson (of the Volunteer Rifles), a son of Dr. Rawson, falling badly wounded in the thigh. They rallied immediately, and the main body arriving, the whole held their ground, although surrounded and greatly outnumbered. After some time a party was detached to command the beach and preserve as far as possible the line of retreat. It would be difficult to give any correct idea of this battle, even if desirable. It was, however, maintained vigorously for the whole afternoon, until dark. The cover of the Volunteer party consisted of the house and stacks of Mr. Jury, and a rough but efficient breast-work of logs, firewood and oat-straw, on which they retreated as night drew on. Their ammunition running low, and no communication taking place with the other parties in the expedition, they were obliged to cease firing, and reserve what few rounds remained for a final rush, should that be necessary. In an early part of the battle, the Niger's party and some of the soldiers appeared in the rear of the Militia and Volunteers, and for a time kept the Natives from closing in on them. The Niger's men disappeared, driving a number of Natives before them, and the men of the 65th Regiment retired on their support. It is said that when application was made to Colonel Murray for more help and ammunition his reply was, 'They have got into a mess, and they must get out of it as best they can.' When it was perceived from the barracks that the fight had begun on the beach, and it was notified that a party of Volunteers were hotly engaged with the insurgents, and short of ammunition, Captain Cracroft (of H.M.S. Niger) was requested to furnish a naval brigade to accompany a lieutenant and a few men of the 65th

Regiment in charge of the ammunition to Omata. At three o'clock he landed sixty men and officers, and, guided by Messrs. F. Mace and C. and E. Messenger, used such despatch that he reached the scene of strife at half-past five. . . . By taking advantage of a thickly-wooded gully, Captain Cracroft came unexpectedly on the Natives, opened fire, drove them back, and, charging the fugitives, entered the pa simultaneously with them. . . . The Maori flag was captured, and thus a diversion effected, which certainly saved my brother-settlers from being destroyed to a man, from their perilous situation, absolute want of ammunition, and being shamefully abandoned by the military. The recall being sounded by Colonel Murray, the troops returned to town before dusk, in obedience to positive orders. As I have said, the situation of the Volunteers and Militia was perilous indeed; and it needed cool and determined officers, like those who took the lead on this occasion, to maintain their spirits in such circumstances. They did so, however, and retired silently under cover of the darkness, and arrived in town after midnight--just as the excitement was fast approaching almost madness, amongst mothers, wives and sisters, etc., and as a relief party of the 65th Regiment and the Militia was leaving for their help."

It becomes necessary now to give Colonel Murray's account of the engagement and his explanation why he left the Volunteers in their perilous situation without a further effort to relieve them.

In his official report of the engagement Colonel Murray said "the plans of operations were that Captain Brown, in command of the Militia and Volunteers, should proceed by the beach, keeping the sea coast, and passing in the rear of the Natives, who had built a pa on the Waireka hills, whilst I should proceed by the main road with a view to dislodge a party of rebels reported to have taken up a position at a spot called Whaler's Gate, for the purpose of cutting off the communication between Omata and the town. In the meantime, Captain Brown, should he succeed in recovering the European families, was to join me at or near this spot. On reaching the spot named, I found the

road clear and no trace of Natives anywhere near, accordingly I moved on leisurely with a view to sooner meeting Captain Brown; but on reaching the top of a hill about a quarter of a mile on the side of the Omata stockade, the sound of rapid firing, about two miles off and near the sea, made it evident that the Volunteers were hotly engaged. I accordingly pushed on to the stockade, when I despatched Lieutenant Blake, R.N., with his men, supported by a subdivision of the company, 65th Regiment, under Lieutenant Urquhart, with orders to proceed in a direct line to the assistance of Captain Brown's party, whilst I continued along the road with the remainder of the force to a lane about a quarter of a mile beyond the stockade, which leads from the road down to the sea. About half way down this lane I turned into the fields and formed a line of skirmishers, with the intention, also, of proceeding to the assistance of the Volunteers, etc. The rebels, however, showed such a disposition to get round our left, and so cut us off from the main road, that I was obliged to abandon that intention, and manoeuvre to prevent it, keeping up a fire whenever they gave us an opportunity, as they were covered by a wood and deep ravine, out of which we attempted to dislodge them with rockets. I ultimately took up a position in the line so as to secure the main road; and the Natives seeing us retire came down through the wood and ravine, but such an effective fire was kept up wherever they showed themselves that they retired to the bush again. Considering my force, however, too small to keep our communication open, should they attack us in force, I recalled Lieutenant Blake's party and Lieutenant Urquhart's, particularly as the day was so far advanced and my orders were to return by dark. I continued to occupy this position until it became absolutely necessary to return, keeping up a frequent fire of rockets on the part and any groups of rebels we observed. It became necessary, however, to detach Lieutenant Urquhart a second time to drive back the rebels, who were attempting to get up on our right, and between us and the Volunteers, which having accomplished, he rejoined me in time to return. . . . I have received

no report of Captain Brown's proceedings, who was too far off for observation, apparently in a gully, with the Natives about him."

Captain Cracroft, whose storming of the pa with men of H.M.S. Niger created a diversion which enabled the Volunteers and Militia under Captain Brown to retire, in his report said:—"I cannot speak too highly of all engaged in this affair, and I should wish to recommend to your notice three of the Volunteers, who accompanied me from the blockhouse and pointed out the road to the pa." (These three were Messrs. F. Mace and C. and E. Messenger.)

"The excitement of the people in New Plymouth that night was great," Mr. Seffern writes in his *History of Taranaki*, "and indignation was openly expressed at the conduct of Colonel Murray in leaving the Volunteers to their fate. Various were the rumours—exaggerated in many instances—that reached the town of what had occurred, and the distress of the women on learning that their relatives had been killed or wounded was very painful in many instances to witness. The first to return to town—which was not until after nightfall—was Colonel Murray and the party of bluejackets who went out with him. Then followed the Naval Brigade, who brought news that Captain Cracroft with his small force had stormed the Natives' pa. Then came rumours to the effect that the gallant little force had taken the pa and routed the Maoris, which was shortly afterwards verified by the return to town of the sailors themselves, with the rebels' flag they had taken stuck on their bayonets, and singing "See the Conquering Hero Comes." Loud and enthusiastic were the cheers that greeted the men on making their appearance, and hearty were the congratulations they all received on their plucky and successful exploit. But the joy of the victory was marred by the report that the Militia and Volunteers were surrounded by Maoris, and that it was feared they would be all massacred; in fact, it was stated at one time that, their ammunition having run out, the Maoris had closed in on the force and totally annihilated the whole of the men. Everyone in town having some relative or connection in the

forces, the excitement was great, and although it was night and dark, it was decided to send a volunteer force, consisting of soldiers, sailors, and militia, to the help of the missing forces. It was, however, eleven o'clock before a start was made; but they had not gone long when a loud cheer was heard, which announced that the two forces had met. Right-about-face was the order, and leading the way the relief party marched back to town, the Militia and Volunteers coming closely after them. The news that the missing ones were on their way to town spread like wildfire, and there was great rejoicing.

In an editorial on March 31st, the Taranaki Herald said, concerning the engagement:—"Our present purpose is to add our testimony to the gallant behaviour of a hitherto untried force, the Taranaki Volunteer Rifles and Militia, whose steady fire and resource before a savage and expert foe has received the warm testimony of his Excellency the Governor and of the Commander of the Forces. It could be, of course, no part of the original plan, however desirable it was otherwise, to hold the ground so well fought for and won, the military and naval forces (the latter having been strengthened by Captain Cracroft in person with additional hands from the Niger) were withdrawn to town, but the non-arrival hour after hour of the civil force, or of any reliable tidings of it, occasioned the most painful anxiety for its fate, so much so that a relief party of military, bluejackets, militia, and rifles started shortly after midnight, but it had not proceeded far before the missing force made itself known in the distance, and the whole returned to town amidst the liveliest demonstrations. The plan of operations was that the militia the rifles should outflank the position of the Natives and proceed at once to execute the service entrusted to them, the soldiers and bluejackets halting in front at the cross roads of Moturoa and Onata. Instead of this they had to bear the brunt of the engagement, and when nothing but their own courage remained to support and cheer, the position was entrenched and fortified with everything at hand until, favoured by darkness, they were able to effect their retreat to town. The numbers en-

gaged in this memorable affair were Maoris 800, British 275."

In its "Journal of Events" the Herald of the same date said:—"Many were the narrow escapes experienced by the Rifles; some had balls through their clothes; another had the sling of his rifle cut in two; another had his bayonet bent nearly double by a ball. During the whole engagement the bullets from the enemy were flying like hail, and the Natives were in swarms estimated at 800. These were completely routed and sustained great loss, and allowed the gallant band of Volunteers to make a good retreat after darkness set in. The Volunteers were ably commanded by Captain Stapp. We speak the feeling of the entire corps when we say that no danger could be considered too great with such a leader."

Mr. W. I. Grayling, who acted as a kind of war correspondent at the front for the Herald, in his account wrote:—"About dusk Captain Stapp addressed us with as much coolness as if we were on parade, and commanded us to hold ourselves ready to retreat with the wounded. The first step was to open communication with Captain Atkinson's party, which was situated on the beach side of a hill to the left of our retreat. With a coolness scarcely to be imagined by those who had never before been in 'battle's front,' all was carefully and kindly prepared for the removal of our friends. The word being given, an advanced guard started with those of the wounded capable of walking, followed by skirmishers right and left, after which came our excellent Captain Stapp with the badly wounded and a rear guard. Without molestation we marched across the open fields, and a short time afterwards we succeeded in reaching the stockade. The wounded Volunteers, so far as I can learn, consist of Lieutenant Hamerton through the knee, Rawson dangerously in the thigh, Paul Inch in the breast, Mr. Messenger in the arm, William Bayly, jun., ball through the shoulder, and Climo also wounded."

In a later letter Mr. Grayling wrote:—"The amount of Captain Atkinson's service may be understood when it is known that we were much

annoyed by the fire of the rebels from the precipitous gullies in our rear, from whence they could have spread along the beach if they had not thus judiciously been kept in check."

The rebel flag captured by the men of the *Niger* was taken to Auckland and presented by Captain Cracroft to the Governor, Sir Thomas Gore Browne. His Excellency, in his reply, addressing the Auckland Volunteers, said:—"I am glad also to repeat to you what I said to your brothers in arms in Taranaki. I saw them on parade and conveyed to them in language as strong as I could devise the admiration I felt at their conduct on the 28th March. No men could have behaved more gallantly than they did, and I have the greatest pleasure in bringing their conduct to the notice of Her Majesty's Government. I trust there is little probability of your services being required in a similar manner, but should they be called for, I shall rely upon your emulating them in the daring and gallantry for which they have now established a lasting reputation."

At a public meeting held in Auckland, a resolution was passed recording the admiration felt by those present of the gallant conduct of all engaged in the battle of Waireka—particularly of the steadiness and devotion of the irregular force of civilians.

Similar resolutions were passed by the Provincial Councils of Nelson and Hawke's Bay.

CHAPTER IV.

On the Monday after the battle of Waireka, April 2nd, a large foraging party of armed Volunteers and Militia, led by Major Herbert and Captain Stapp, proceeded before daybreak to some farms at the extremity of the Omata Block to get in the potato crops. They dug up a large quantity of potatoes and threshed out a stack of wheat, and returned to town in the evening with between 30 and 40 loads.

On Wednesday, April 4th, at 10 a.m., a general parade of the 65th, the Volunteer Rifles and Militia was held on the parade ground. At the conclusion Colonel Gold addressed the Volunteers and Militia in ritting terms on their gallant services at Waireka and general good conduct.

Again on Saturday, April 7th, a foraging party left town at 3 a.m. to get in crops at Omata, returning in the afternoon with several loads of potatoes, carrots, hay, oaten straw, etc. All this time the usual picketing duties had to be performed by the men. A little later their duties were varied, on Friday, April 20th, by being detailed to escort the carts containing the equipage, ammunition, stores, etc., of a force of military despatched to Tataraimaka to subdue the Natives in that district. This force, with the exception of 200 men left at Tataraimaka, returned to town with its train on April 20th. On this date the usual monthly parade of the Rifles and Militia was held, after which the Rifles marched into town preceded by their band under Mr. Manby. The band used their new instruments just received from England.

The heavy reinforcements of the military now lessened the arduous duties which had hitherto devolved on the Volunteers and Militia, most of whom were now enabled to have two nights in bed. Some of them were sadly in need of it apparently, for the "Journal of Events" records on May 5th

that upwards of 80 of them were on the sick list from colds.

The Queen's Birthday, May 24th, was celebrated by a parade of the Volunteers and Militia, who assembled for drill at 9 a.m., and after firing a *teu de joie*, headed by the Volunteer Band marched to Marsland Hill, where the military had assembled. After firing salutes the whole force marched past the Colonel Commanding the Forces. Before leaving the ground Captain Stapp conveyed to the Militia and Volunteers the Colonel's approbation of the manner in which they fired and took part in the proceedings.

Two days later Captain Richard Brown, while seeking a stray horse in the neighbourhood of the camp at Waitara, was shot at by a Native and wounded very severely. He galloped back to camp, but his wound proved fatal on August 22nd. On account of this attack and the general threatening attitude of the Natives in the Bell Block, a strong garrison was maintained in the blockhouse there, the Volunteer Rifles providing a portion of it.

Nothing very startling occurred until Wednesday, June 24th, when an attack was made on a Native pa at Puketakauere, near Waitara, whence troops had been fired upon by Natives in ambush. At three o'clock in the morning fifty men of the 65th, with two howitzers, left town, and the Militia and Volunteers were assembled under arms, and paraded on Mount Eliot, when strong outlying pickets were told off, and sent to their respective posts. An order was also issued that all should remain under arms during the night. In consequence, however, of the return of the troops the outlying and Henui Militia and Volunteers were afterwards dismissed from duty for the night.

The attack on Puketakauere was a desperate engagement. The attacking force numbered 347 of all ranks, while the rebels were estimated at from 800 to 1000. After losing 29 men killed and 33 wounded, Major Nelson was forced to retire without having effected his object. The Volunteer Rifles not being engaged in the affair, no further reference is here necessary. Although the corps was not engaged it was represented by four

members, viz., George Robinson, Isaiah Freeman, and Oliver Hoby—engaged in transport of guns—and George Hoby, mounted orderly to Captain Seymour, of H.M.S. Pelorus.

On Tuesday, July 3rd, the Militia and Volunteers were served with clothing, each man receiving a blanket, blue shirt, guernsey, and a pair of boots. These were received none too soon, as both Militia and Volunteers had been compelled hitherto, from some one's unexplained omission, to provide themselves. Many, says the "Journal of Events," from this cause had gone on night duty insufficiently clad. They had lost everything from the war, and to purchase winter clothing was out of the question.

On the following Friday, the Journal states, Colonel Gold, in company with Captain Marris, R.E., and Major Herbert, commanding Militia and Volunteers, decided upon entrenching the central portion of the town. (There are still to be found traces of this entrenchment, on the Carrington Road, for instance, close by the water trough lately placed there.) The Volunteer Rifles were among those employed upon this work. During their leisure time the Rifles resumed ball practice, which for some time had been neglected. Another duty which devolved upon them about this time was the furnishing of a picket to escort several carts to Hurworth, Captain Atkinson's farm, to bring in a wooden building for the guard at Fort Herbert. On Tuesday, July 31st, the corps had the melancholy task of furnishing a firing party over the grave of Hugh Corbyn Harris, a young settler who, while attached to the military camp at Waitara, had been shot by Natives when engaged in gathering firewood. That same evening, in consequence of disquieting rumours as to Native movements, the Militia and Volunteers were called together, and strong outlying pickets were told off.

On Sunday, August 5th, the Volunteers and some Militia, under Captains Stapp, Watt and Atkinson, marched out to Mr. McKechney's house, which had been plundered by Natives the previous day. The Natives, however, retired before contact could be established with them.

CHAPTER V.

ON August 6th a proclamation was issued by Colonel Carey, stating that, "as it is indispensably necessary that families should leave this town, they must prepare to embark for such places as shall be decided upon." There was a general impression that the Natives intended to attack the town and every precaution was taken to meet an attack. The different companies of Militia and Volunteers had their stations marked out; the trenches were vigorously proceeded with, and palisading put up in various parts of the town, and gates were erected across the streets. The outlying picket was brought in from the racecourse and stationed in the trenches.

On Saturday, August 11th, a party of Militia and Volunteers, under the command of Major Herbert, Captains King, Watt, Stapp and Atkinson, proceeded to the camp at Waireka, where the rebels were in force on Grayling's, Wilkinson's, and the Rev. Mr. Brown's farms, the rebels firing on the party and wounding Sergeant Free, of the Volunteers, slightly by a ball on the knee. Two days later Captain Atkinson led a party of thirty men out to the Avenue Road to bring some property into town. They had a little skirmish with Natives, who were driven into the bush with the loss of one killed and one wounded. Their duties were varied on Thursday, August 16th, when the brig George Henderson was driven ashore north of the Henui River, and a strong party of Militia and Volunteers were marched to the scene of the wreck to prevent the Natives from plundering it. Here Lieutenant McKellar, of the Militia, and Mr. E. Coad were fired upon. Lieutenant McKellar escaped, but Coad's body was found in the Henui River on Saturday with four bullets in it. Mr. Coad was one of the earliest settlers, and lost his life in carrying to a brother Volunteer his supper and blanket on board the wrecked brig. At the

commencement of the war he joined the mounted escort under Captain Des Voeux, but afterwards transferred to the Volunteer Rifles. At Waitara and Waireka he distinguished himself by great intrepidity and coolness, and was always at his post when an encounter with the enemy offered. He was buried with military honours in St. Mary's Churchyard, the band of the Volunteers playing the funeral march, and a firing party of Volunteers preceding the body.

On Wednesday, August 22nd, Mr. Richard Brown, who held a captain's commission in the Militia, died at Waitara as a result of the wounds received in an attack upon him by Natives three-months earlier. He was one of the original members of the Taranaki Volunteer Rifle Corps, but when the war broke out he joined the mounted escort. Here he rendered such useful service that Governor Browne conferred upon him a captain's commission in the Militia to enable him to raise a Native force at the Waitara to act against the rebels of the district. He was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard on Sunday, August 26th with full military honours, the Volunteer Rifles again furnishing a firing party of fifty men, and their band playing the funeral march alternately with the bands of the 65th and 40th Regiments. Only two days previously the Volunteers had a similar melancholy duty to perform in connection with the funeral of Mr. E. Sarten, and on Monday they assisted in the same manner at the funeral of H. Crann, a Militiaman, who was murdered by Natives near the Avenue Road. The same day a party of forty-two Militia and Volunteers, under Captain H. R. Richmond, were detailed to escort provision carts to Omata.

On Wednesday, August 29th, a report reached town that a body of the enemy were on Mr. A. King's land at the Henai. A force of military, bluejackets and fifty Militia and Volunteers, under Captains Stapp and Atkinson and Lieutenants Walter Morrison and Hirst, marched out against the rebels. When they reached the scene, however, the Natives had decamped, and the force returned to town. On the following day fifty Militia and Volunteers, under Captain King and

Lieutenant Morrison, furnished an escort for provision carts to Bell Block, and brought in a quantity of produce for the Commissariat.

The first week in September was a busy time. On Saturday, 1st, fifty of the Militia and Volunteers, under Captain and Adjutant Stapp and Lieutenants Hirst and Jonas, accompanied a strong force of military to Puketotara, where they destroyed a Native pa, and brought in a number of horses. At 11 p.m. on Monday, 3rd, 150 men of the Militia and Volunteers fell in at the Militia Office, received 60 rounds of ball ammunition per man, and at midnight started for Barton's Hill with a large force of military and bluejackets, in command of Major-General Pratt. The force was divided into three divisions. The third division consisted of the 150 Militia and Volunteers, in command of Major Herbert, Captains C. Brown, W. C. King, Captain and Adjutant Stapp, Captain Des Voeux (in charge of mounted escort), Lieutenants McKellar, Morrison and Hirst. This division proceeded by the Frankley Road to Patterson's sawmill, where they halted till morning and then continued their march through a dense forest till they reached A. Brooking's clearing about three miles in rear of Burton's, when they came upon Burton's Road and proceeded towards Burton's Hill anxiously expecting the signal gun of attack in their front. They arrived at the hill about 10 a.m. and found the place evacuated, though quite recently occupied by the Natives. The force continued their march through Ratapihipihi, burning the pa there, and reached town at 1.30 p.m., after a march of nearly twenty miles, much of it through dense bush. Next day forty Militia and Volunteers, in command of Captain Watt and Lieutenant Hirst, marched to Bell Block to relieve the 12th stationed there, but after arriving they were ordered back to town.

During the week two steamers, the Airedale and the White Swan, took a large number of families to Nelson.

The monotony of fatigue duties was relieved on Monday, September 10th. On the previous afternoon the two companies of the Rifles paraded

and marched to the Militia Office, where they were informed by Captain Stapp that an expedition would start next morning for Waitara, and that fifty of the Volunteers would be allowed to join. He asked those who wished to go to step out. The call was responded to above the number required, and the men were ordered to hold themselves in readiness for the march. At an early hour next morning everyone was astir preparing for the expedition. Numerous carts were loading with ammunition, camp equipage, stores, etc. The Volunteers formed part of No. 3 Division of the Forces, and were under the command of Captain and Adjutant Stapp, Captain Watt, and Lieutenants Hirst and Webster. They left town shortly after noon, the whole force numbering upwards of 900 men. At 4 o'clock the rest of the Volunteer Corps, with the Militia and the remaining troops, assembled and manned the trenches. Maboetahi, a seven miles march, was the resting place on Monday night, and at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, in deep silence, the force moved on again until it neared the Ngataiparirua pa, about two or three miles distant. This pa was destroyed by the second division, while the third advanced on the Kairua pa, which was also destroyed. Thence the whole force advanced towards Wiremu Kingi's stronghold. A skirmishing party of the 40th were sent to destroy the Huirangi pa, when suddenly they were fired upon from the bush. A sharp exchange of firing took place, one man of the 40th being killed. The pa was fired, also another small one called Ketewaionaha, a few hundred yards away. Then the retire was ordered, the Volunteers, in conjunction with some of the 40th, covering it. The force marched to Waitara, where they camped for the night, returning to town next afternoon.

At the usual parade of Militia and Volunteers on Monday, September 17th, Captain Stapp read the Articles of War, particularly that portion enjoining respectful conduct to superiors, and the necessity for subordination. Captain Watt followed on a more agreeable theme, reading the following letter from the ladies of Lyttelton to the Volunteers of this province:—

Lyttelton, Canterbury,
August 2nd, 1860.

The Ladies of Lyttelton to the Volunteers at Taranaki wish health, safety, and speedy success, through the favour and protection of Almighty God.

While you are faithfully and bravely maintaining our common cause, exposed to discomfort, privation and danger, we recognise the debt we owe you, and tender you our warmest thanks.

Over those of your number who have fallen, we deeply grieve, and heartily sympathise with the wounded in their sufferings.

The accompanying garments, the work of our own hands, and the result of our united efforts, will, we trust, minister to the comfort of some among you, and at least suffice to show that your gallantry is not, even at this distance, unappreciated.

Thirty-two signatures.

A suitable acknowledgment was sent to the writers.

On the following day fifty Militia and Volunteers, under Lieutenants Morrison and Webster, went out to Broadmore's section as an escort for firewood for the bread contractors. At 5 o'clock in the evening the Militia and Volunteers paraded at the Militia Office, and 62 men were told off to form part of a force of 500 men to proceed next morning against the southern rebels at Tataraimaka.

CHAPTER VI.

THE force to operate against the southern rebels left town at 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning, September 19th, the Militia and Volunteers being under the command of Captain H. Richmond, Captain and Adjutant Stapp, and Lieutenants Morrison, McKellar, Hirst and Jonas. The Militia and Volunteers formed the rear guard, protecting the baggage. The force camped at Oakura after a wet, cold march. Next morning, about 6 o'clock, a fresh start was made, Captain Stapp addressing his men just before moving, and telling them that he would endeavour to use all his influence to place them in a position to do that service which he felt they were so well able to do. He knew, he said, that where he led they would follow: he had every confidence in their bravery and determination, and would only remark how requisite it was that their movements should be governed by coolness and care, and that in approaching the enemy's strongholds they should endeavour to outwit them by avoiding any ambuscade that might be thrown in their way, and also never to pull a trigger without they could make sure of their aim, and immediately on firing to take advantage of any cover that might be at hand, and also to bear in mind the necessity of acting together and assisting, even at the risk of life, a wounded or fallen comrade.

On the march it fell to the lot of the Volunteers to destroy a very strong pa on Mr. Greenwood's farm. That night camp was pitched on "Johnny's Flat," just beyond the Katikara River, the crossing of which gave rise to some fun, as the river was in fresh and the tide was in. After the tents had been pitched the Rifles and Militia commenced raising breastworks around their tents, and digging rifle-pits for the sentinels, an example which was followed by the military. Here the force remained until Monday morning, when orders

were given to return to town. It was a bitter disappointment to the men to be denied the satisfaction of avenging the losses they and their fellow settlers had suffered. It may be imagined how they felt when marching back to town in beautiful weather through land laid waste by the rebels. The Herald's correspondent, Mr. W. L. Grayling, in his letter, stated that on the Tatarua Block alone twenty-six houses had been destroyed, and between 2000 and 3000 sheep, 100 head of cattle, and many horses had disappeared. In the Omata district nearly 100 houses had been either dismantled or given to the flames. Town was reached the same evening.

On Monday, October 1st, at a parade of the Militia and Volunteers, lots were drawn for the distribution of presents received from Canterbury and Wellington, and three hearty cheers were given for the lady contributors.

Next day it was announced that an expedition would start on the following morning for Kaihiki, and that 80 men of the Militia and Volunteers would take part in it. Bad weather, however, caused a postponement, and it was not until the morning of Tuesday, October 9th, that the force actually left the town. It numbered 1043 rank and file, exclusive of bullock drivers and servants. The Militia and Volunteers, to the number of 82, were under Captain and Adjutant Stapp, Captain Richmond, Lieutenants Hirst, Webster, Hamerton, Jonas and McKellar, and Ensign A. Standish. The 65th and the Militia and Volunteers formed the main body. The force camped after crossing the Timaru River and started again at five o'clock next morning. The Volunteers were told off into two subdivisions, to act as left flank guards to protect the baggage from any ambuscade that might have been formed by the enemy in the various ravines they had to cross. On Wednesday night the force encamped on a flat on the south side of the Parawaha pa, beyond "Johnny's Flat." Next morning some of the Volunteers were engaged with a working party mounting the 8-inch gun which accompanied the force. On Friday a portion of the Volunteers, under Lieutenant Hirst, joined a force in rushing the Orongomaihangai pa,

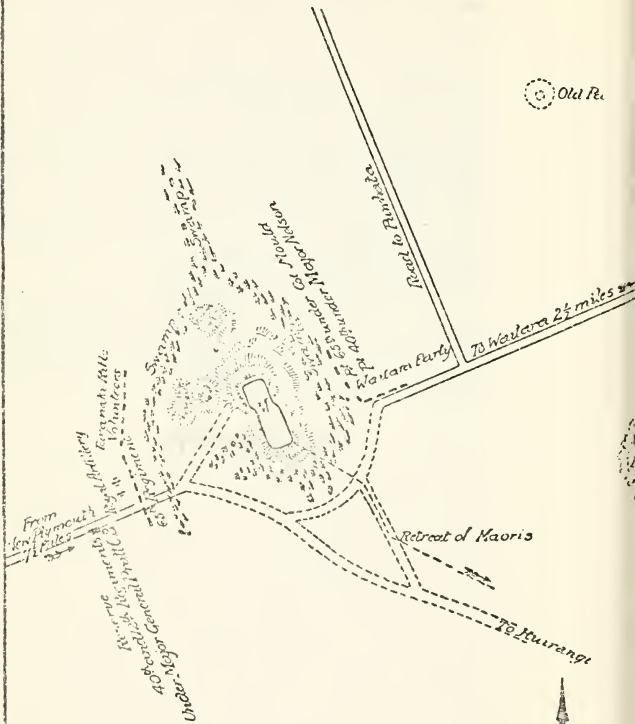
a stronghold on the precipitous banks of the Kaihihi River. The Pukekakariki pa was next rushed, an exciting rush ensuing between the friendly Natives and Captain Stapp with his Volunteers. It was nearly a dead heat, as the Natives stuck a little in endeavouring to climb the palisading, whilst the gallant Captain and his men effected an entrance at the side. The third pa, across the river, was rushed by a company of the 65th. All the pahi were destroyed, the occupants having retreated earlier, leaving their drays, agricultural implements, potatoes, etc., behind them. Next day the force returned to town, the Volunteers acting as flank-guard, more satisfied with the trip than with any since Waireka. Very shortly there was to be sterner work for them.

In common with the rest of the force engaged, the Taranaki Rifles received the thanks of the Major-General "for their steady and exemplary conduct during four days of hard and harassing duty" in the expedition to Kaihihi.

1928786

BATTLE OF MAHOETAHI

6th November 1860



M Position taken up by the Whakato under Wetini Taiporutu.

CHAPTER VII.

On Friday, October 26th, a proclamation was posted in town by order of the Major-General, cautioning all individuals from moving beyond the protection of the outposts. This was issued in consequence of information being received that the Waikatos were approaching the town in force. That night the glare of fire was seen in the direction of Bell Block, and next morning it was learned that the houses of Messrs. John Joseph, Richard Street, T. Hirst, E. Hollis and A. Hoskin had been burnt by the Natives. The next night Messrs. Hulke's and Everett's houses were burned, and in the small hours of Monday morning those of T. Ibbotson, C. Waller and J. Pepperell were also burned. That morning a reconnoitring party, consisting of about 160 military and 50 Rifle Volunteers under Captain Atkinson and Lieutenant Morrison, was despatched to Bell Block. On arrival at the blockhouse the force proceeded to the site of the Ikamoana pa. A skirmishing party of the 40th was thrown out, the Volunteers being rear guard, and afterwards flanking guard. Several shots were exchanged, and the force returned to town in the afternoon. On the night of November 1st the rebels coolly took away from a paddock under the Bell Block blockhouse four bullocks and a cart. News was also received that they were fortifying positions at Bell Block.

On Saturday, November 3rd, a party of Militia and Rifle Volunteers left town early to visit the farms on the Frankley Road. They numbered fifty, and were under the command of Captain King and Lieutenant Jonas. They went as far as Patterson's sawmills, and brought in a quantity of wood, sawn timber, etc. Tracks of Natives were seen in the bush roads, and on returning the party searched Elliot's and Smith's farms, as they were informed Natives had been recently seen in that direction.

Next day Lieutenant-Colonel Carey and a party went out to reconnoitre Sentry Hill and found that the report about the Natives occupying positions there was incorrect. On Monday, however, it was learned that a party of Waikatos had occupied Mahoetahi, and the General determined to proceed next morning to take the position.

Before four o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, November 6th, the troops prepared for the march to Mahoetahi. The carts were filled with baggage, ammunition, etc., and two howitzers (24-pounders) were in readiness to start at 5 a.m. The force, which was under the command of Major-General Pratt, C.B., consisted of 13 Royal Artillery under Captain Stover, 10 Royal Engineers under Captain Mould, 84 men of the 12th under Major Hutchins, 168 men of the 40th under Colonel Leslie, 223 men of the 65th under Captain Turner, 30 Militia and 90 Rifle Volunteers under Major Herbert, Captains Brown and Atkinson, Lieutenants Morrison, Messenger, Hamerton and Webster, and 20 Mounted Volunteers under Captain Des Voeux.

It was a cool morning and rather dark when the force paraded in Devon Street, preparatory to marching. The Rifle Volunteers were intended to act as supports, and space was left in the column for their companies. When the force was ready to march, as the space retained was not nearly filled there was, says Dr. Grace in his account, much tittering and ridicule amongst the soldiers. Colonel Carey rode up to Captain Atkinson, and said—

“Captain, this is very bad. Where are your men?”

The captain's eye shone with a fierce light as he replied in a hoarse trumpet voice that penetrated one's bones--

“Colonel, let the column advance. My men will fall in as we go, and, in any case, there are enough Volunteers present to storm the position.”

This answer electrified the listeners. The news of Atkinson's defiant air spread like wildfire through the settlement. His men joined the column in threes and fours as it marched along, and soon the complete companies were in the ranks.

Bell Block was reached at 6 a.m., when a part of the Militia were left at the stockade and their place taken by Rifle Volunteers. On reaching the declivity before coming to the Mangoraka River a halt was ordered, and the guns limbered up and taken to the front and skirmishers thrown forward, while Mahoetahi, distant about a mile and a half, and the country adjacent, was observed by the General with a telescope. The order to march was again given, and the force proceeded—the 65th in advance forming a skirmishing party and support, with the General and staff, followed by the Rifle Volunteers, the guns, the Artillerymen, the Engineers, and the train of carts; the 40th and the 12th being rear guard. The Mangoraka stream was forded, the men wading through the stream, and in silence and good order all advanced towards Mahoetahi.

Mahoetahi is a hill a little to the westward, or New Plymouth side, of the Waiongona River. The Devon Road passes through it at a spot about eight miles from town and three from Waitara. Arrived there, General Pratt saw nothing but an insignificant hill surrounded with an apparently dry swamp. There was not a Maori to be seen, nor an earthwork or stockade. The only sign of life was a thin wreath of smoke ascending peaceably in the morning air. The General chewed his moustache, eased himself by sitting sideways in the saddle and said—

“Well, Carey, sold again!”

Just as they were in doubt, Captain Atkinson fell out of the ranks, and, hot with seething emotions, walked up to the General and said—

“General, my men were slow in parading. This is our land. I claim for the Taranaki Volunteers the honour of the assault.”

The General looked at Colonel Carey, who said—

“Captain, the dispositions for the attack are not yet completed. In any case you and your men are entitled to an honourable position in the field. You shall hear from the General later.”

It was decided that the assault should be entrusted to a company of the 65th and a company of the Taranaki Volunteers under Captain Atkinson.

The Volunteers were extended to the left front of Mahoetahi, their left flank under Captain Atkinson on the extreme left, and were fast lessening the distance, when by a rush they took possession of a hill about 100 yards from the pa. The order at this moment was received by Major Herbert to charge the pa. He ordered his men to fix bayonets, and with a hearty cheer the pa was gallantly stormed simultaneously with the 65th in the front. With great fury they hurled themselves at the elevated ridge, where they were met by Wetini Taiporutu in person leading his men. In rushing the hill the Volunteers were exposed to a heavy flanking fire, but it was not until they had entered the entrenchments that they experienced any loss. Here a fierce hand-to-hand conflict took place, both sides being eager to reload once the first volley was fired. Two men of the 65th, Privates McGivern and Rooney, and two Volunteers, Harry Edgecombe and Frank Brown (a son of the Rev. H. H. Brown), fell mortally wounded, shot by the enemy at a distance of a few yards. Edgecombe was twenty years of age, while Brown was barely 16. Edgecombe was gallantly carried off the field by R. Langman.

Captain Atkinson, with a small party, occupied a low hill on the left and kept up a destructive fire on the rebels on their flank. It was some time before the Natives could be dislodged from the rear of the pa, where they were keeping up a smart fire, wounding several of the 65th and Volunteers. At an opportune moment Major Nelson arrived with a column from Waitara and Colonel Mould with 100 men of the 65th from Puketakare, and attacked the left rear of the rebels. A howitzer shell dropped among them compelled them to make a precipitate retreat down the hill into a swamp and across the country. The retreat became a rout, the rebels throwing away their guns and pouches in the fern, and several hiding in the swamp, where they were shot.

Then a party of Militia, under Captain R. C. Hamerton, and the friendly Natives, of whom about 100 accompanied the expedition, with Mr. W. Atkinson in command, proceeded with carts and foraging parties of soldiers, to gather the bodies

of the rebels. Thirty dead bodies, including several chiefs, were brought up and laid out on the ground. One prisoner (unhurt) and six dangerously wounded Natives were also brought in. The attacking force lost four killed and seventeen wounded, the Rifle Volunteers casualties being:—Privates H. Edgecombe and F. Brown, killed; Richard Langman, jun., slightly wounded in the breast and arm; John Ward, slightly in groin; W. Vercoe, slightly in knee; Thos. Veale, slightly in knee.

The Taranaki Herald's Journal of Events says: "The charge of the Rifles is acknowledged by all to be a brilliant one. Major Herbert and Captains Atkinson and Brown led their men with conspicuous gallantry. A Volunteer (W. Marshall) saved the life of Private Jones (65th) by bayoneting a Native who was in the act of tomahawking him while struggling with another Native in the swamp who had closed with Jones."

At 3 p.m. the Battle of Mahoetahi was over and the forces prepared to return to town, which was reached at 5 p.m.

A soldier of the 65th, in a letter published in the Wellington Independent of November 27th, described the fight, which he termed "the greatest battle, at all events the most glorious, it has been the lot of our troops to fight on New Zealand ground." Relating how the order was given to charge, he said: "All honour to the gallant Volunteers; they were plain to be seen side by side with the 65th." "Nothing could exceed the joy of the General, and, indeed, the 65th and Volunteers were heartily cheered as they returned to town." "The Taranaki people say now that if it was in their power we should wear a lion as well as a tiger; and, indeed, I think the Volunteers equally deserve some such trophy, for a better lot of men you could not wish for."

Mr. Richard Langman, who is now a resident of Westown, gives the following account of an incident in the fight:—"I was a private in the No. 2 Company of Volunteers under Captain H. A. Atkinson, and engaged in action against the Maoris

at Mahoetahi on November 6, 1861. The Volunteers were extended on the sea side of the pa, where the Maoris were in force. Shortly after arrival we advanced to the brow of the hill, when I saw a Native with his gun presented at me ready to fire. I immediately ducked down, and the bullet passed by close to my head. I then knelt down and fired at the Maori, and killed him on the spot. I then rushed forward and took the gun, taking it behind the firing line. I handed it to Bugler Geo. Cooke to hold for me until after the firing was over. I then returned and advanced with the firing line in company with Harry Edgecombe, who was killed at the engagement, I myself being also wounded in the left arm and chest when taking Edgecombe back from the firing line."

Mr Langman lost the run of the gun until February, 1908, when it came to his knowledge through the columns of the Taranaki Herald that it was in the possession of a local gentleman, who at once gave it up to Mr. Langman, by whom it was handed to the present captain of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, to be held as a relic of the Battle of Mahoetahi.

But slight reference has been made to the part taken by the military, other than Captain Turner's company of the 65th, who shared the honour of attacking the stronghold with the Volunteers, in the engagement, because this is a history of the Rifle Corps, not of the war. It was estimated that there were about 200 of the rebels in action, and the whole attack lasted little more than two hours, when the enemy broke and fled, being pursued by the military for some distance.

On Thursday, November 8, at noon, the bodies of the three chiefs and the three Natives who died from their wounds were buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, the funeral service (in Maori) being read by Archdeacon Govett. The bodies were placed in coffins and buried in two graves. The funerals of the soldiers Rooney and McEivern and the Rifle Volunteers Edgecombe and Brown took place at 2 p.m. They were buried with military honours, the bands of the 40th, 65th, and Rifles being in attendance. The General and Staff, all

the officers and men off duty in the garrison, and a great number of Militia and Volunteers followed the bodies to their last resting-place. The bodies of the Rifle Volunteers were carried by 65th men, and those of the two soldiers by Rifle Volunteers. Rooney and Brown were buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Edgecombe in the Primitive Methodist Cemetery, and McGivern in the Roman Catholic burial ground.

More bodies of Natives were subsequently found on the battlefield, the ascertained loss being increased to 45 killed. Others died of their wounds after being carried away.

On Saturday, November 10, the body of John Hawken, who had been missing from Waitara since Wednesday, was found near Mahoetahi, much mutilated about the head by a tomahawk, and with four bullet wounds. He visited the battlefield the day after the engagement, and was caught and killed by Natives. He was buried on Sunday, the Rifle Volunteers furnishing a firing party.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE withdrawal of a number of the troops to Auckland placed additional duties upon the Militia and Volunteers, who had now to garrison two blockhouses and find guards (day), which duty did not fall upon them before, and with the outlying pickets gave the men in many instances only one night in bed. Picket duty was not the pleasantest work either, and complaints were made about the state of the picket houses, some of which were unfit to put men into.

On Tuesday, December 4, about four o'clock in the afternoon a lad named Joseph Sartou, while looking for a bullock at Te Henui, was shot and tomahawked by Natives. His companion, William Northcote, escaped and rode into town with the intelligence. A party, including some Militia and Rifle Volunteers, immediately proceeded to recover the body, which was found in a lane running from Stewart's house towards the beach, about midway between the Henui and Waiwakaiho Rivers. (This is the lane between the Henui Church and the property known as Shuttleworth's.)

On Thursday, December 27, it was decided that an expedition should start at four o'clock next morning for Matarikoriko, on the Waitara River, where the Waikatos were in force. Eighty Volunteers and Militia were among those detailed for the service, but owing to only 47 of the number having mustered at the appointed time they were dismissed, and their number made up by troops from the 12th Regiment. The Herald, referring to the incident, said that an impression prevailed that the Major-General commanding had expressed an opinion, after the affair at Makoetahi, that for the future it should be optional with the settlers whether they took the field again. The men, however, were in General Orders in deference to a wish expressed that the corps as a body should not

be altogether excluded from field operations against the enemy. It was a regrettable incident, which kept the Volunteer Rifles from participating in the rout of the Natives at Matarikoriko, where a heavy fire of small arms was kept up for twenty hours before the enemy evacuated their positions.

At 3 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 1861, a small force of military, numbering about 180 men, left town to take part in an attack on Waireka Hill, in conjunction with 120 bluejackets from H.M.S. *Niger*, under Captain Cracroft, who left during the night to land in the rear of the rebels' position. At daylight, firing having been heard, the bugles of the Militia were sounded and 108 Militia and Rifle Volunteers, under Major Herbert, mustered and followed by the road taken by the military. On reaching the Omata Stockade, where the troops were halted, large bodies of Natives could be seen on Waireka Hill, and whilst a signal from Captain Cracroft was being looked for in that direction a telegram was received from town stating that the gallant captain had returned to his ship on account of being unable to effect a safe landing. The land force therefore returned to town without making the intended attack, though whilst they were at the Omata Stockade Major Lloyd's house at Waireka was burned by the Natives. On the following day the Rev. G. Bayley's house at Omata was burned, also Mrs. Passmore's. A few days later Mr. Tatton's house and buildings on Frankley Road were burned, and the rebels ventured so close to town as the Avenue Road on marauding expeditions.

On January 29 the Rifle Volunteers lost one of their number, Richard Collins, a youth of 19, through fever, and he was buried with military honours.

On Thursday, January 31, on account of fires being seen in the direction of Omata, a reconnoitring party of 100 men of the 57th and 65th and 40 Rifle Volunteers, the whole under the command of Major Butler, left town at 10 a.m. All the farms on the line of road were searched, but no Natives were encountered. The expedition halted

this side of Herekawe Hill, from which spot Natives were seen in the direction of Andrews' farm (Inland). The force then retraced their steps to the Elliot Road, the Volunteers being then thrown out in advance as a line of skirmishers. Advanced parties of the Volunteers continued along the Elliot Road, and some Natives having been observed running from Billing's, a few Volunteers on Cowling's Hill, under Captain Atkinson, opened fire at 900 yards, with some effect as was afterwards found, for the dead body of a Native was discovered. The party returned to town by the Frankley Road.

On Friday February 8, Captain W. C. King, of the Militia, was shot dead by Natives on his estate at Woodleigh (now Frankleigh Park). The occurrence was witnessed from Marsland Hill, and a number of Militia and Volunteers hastened to the scene, followed by military, but too late to intercept the Natives.

Some days later, on February 18, a party of Militia and Volunteers, under Captain and Adjutant Stapp and Lieutenant McKellar, were out reconnoitring up the Frankley Road when some friendly Natives were taken for the enemy and fired at, but they succeeded in escaping to their pa.

On February 23 a party of the 57th, 65th, and Militia and Rifle Volunteers, under Major Herbert, left town at 8.50 a.m. with provisions for the Omata Stockade. On reaching the Stockade, and soon after they had piled arms, they received a volley from 80 to 100 muskets from the rebels posted on the hill on Major Lloyd's farm. The men immediately fell in and returned a brisk fire, their howitzer throwing a few shells into the hill, which dislodged the rebels at once, who retreated towards the beach. The force then advanced in skirmishing order, and took possession of the hill. After a short engagement the troops were recalled by order from town. Five men of the 57th and 65th were wounded.

On the morning of Sunday, March 3, a party consisting of W. S. Ginger, J. G. Ginger, H. J. Hall, W. Harrison, sen., E. W. Hollis (sergeant), C. W. Hursthouse, J. E. W. Hussey, C. Messenger, Edward Messenger, H. Newland, C. A. Pope, W.

Smart, W. B. Walker, all members of the Rifle Volunteers, and a civilian, H. W. Brewer, started from town for W. Walker's farm for the purpose of gathering peaches, Sunday being a day when Natives generally retire to their pas. Not finding any at Walker's they determined to go to Mr. Hursthouse's orchard. On the way they went through a hedge to cross an orchard on Captain H. King's grounds, at Brooklands (now Mr. Newton King's residence), to avoid a piece of bush directly behind it, and seeing some peaches commenced gathering them. They had been so employed for some three or four minutes when they were startled at hearing a shot at the further end of the orchard, where two of their number were. Thinking it was fired by one of the party, some asked the cause, but before an explanation could be given a volley was fired by about thirty Natives, within ten yards, from a ditch immediately behind the trees, but which was concealed by a hedge. W. Smart was severely wounded in the back. The party immediately fired their rifles (Smart, in spite of his wound, firing), and ran for cover through the gap by which they had entered, some turning and firing on the Natives. Before they were all through, however, Edward Messenger fell shot through the heart as he faced around to deliver his fire. The party halted to recover Messenger's body, and then taking cover despatched three of their number to town for assistance. One of the Natives was shot, but the others retreated and no more was seen of them. Edward Messenger was the crack shot of the Rifles. Though only seventeen years of age, and not liable for service, he was emphatically a volunteer, taking a settler's interest in the war, and was present at Waireka, Mahoetahi, and, indeed, in every affair with the rebels in which the settlers had taken part, and was always distinguished for coolness and courage. Smart's conduct was very praiseworthy; although severely wounded he fired two shots afterwards and refused to leave till Messenger's body was recovered. The whole party, indeed, seemed to have acted well under extraordinary circumstances. Messenger was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard on the following Tuesday.

CHAPTER IX.

In the meantime operations were being steadily carried on from Waitara by General Pratt and his forces, ending in the evacuation by the rebels of Te Arei pa at Huirangi, followed by a truce. On Friday, March 22, 1861, the following notice was issued by the Colonel commanding the garrison:—

NOTICE.

A cessation of hostilities having been granted to the enemy in the Province, all active operations for the present will cease, and, during the truce, the Major-General commanding requests that the most amicable relations should be kept up between the Natives and the settlers. He desires, however, that the following rules be still attended to:—

That all persons in the town still keep within the outposts; and at Omata, Bell Block, and Ngapuketuruua near their stockades; and that all the usual guards be kept; and parties will only be allowed to proceed beyond these limits who have passes signed by the Deputy Quartermaster-General.

By command,

CHARLES SILLERY,
Colonel, D.Q.M.G.,
Commanding Garrison.

New Plymouth,
March 22, 1861.

Thus after a year of fighting hostilities were suspended for a time. But what a year! A list of European settlers of the district whose homesteads, etc., had been burned by the rebel Maoris between March 17, 1860, and March 31, 1861, contained no less than 175 names. The Jurors' List for the Province of Taranaki at the same period did not show more than 212 country settlers who had houses in the country. Of these 175 had had their homes completely destroyed, while those houses that were left standing were so chopped

and broken to pieces as to be almost as much injured as if burned.

On April 18 the Superintendent, Mr. G. Cutfield, gave notice that arrangements were being made to bring back certain families from Nelson, and on the following day a further notice was issued by Colonel Sillery, to the effect that the notice of March 22, quoted above, had been withdrawn by the Major-General.

The settlers, including those who were members of the Volunteer Rifles, were now able to resume their ordinary avocations. And here it may be recorded that on the cricket field as on the battle field the Volunteers were staunch fighters. In a match between an eleven from the Omata Stockade and eleven of the Volunteers and Militia stationed in New Plymouth, played on May 7, the latter, among whom was Captain Atkinson, won by an innings and 149 runs, the principal scorers being Copestake 63, Sheppee 48, Hammond 42, Richardson 25, and Morris 18.

On the Queen's Birthday the garrison paraded, and after the parade Colonel Warre, C.B., requested Major Herbert, Commanding the Militia and Volunteers, to state to those corps his perfect satisfaction at their soldierlike deportment and mode of marching.

A red-letter day in the history of the Rifles was Tuesday, June 25, 1861, when the corps was presented with colours. The ceremony was to have taken place on the 18th inst. (Waterloo Day), but was postponed owing to the inclemency of the weather.

The Militia and Volunteers mustered on the parade ground, Poverty Flat, at 9 a.m., and after some preliminary drill were joined at 10.45 a.m. by the 57th with their colours and band, under the command of Major Butler. The Militia and Volunteers, under Major Herbert, were ranged in six divisions. Volunteers made up from Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, under Captain Atkinson, were escort for colours. The 57th, in divisions, formed in front and rear of the Militia. The colours, in charge of Sergeant Free (Volunteer Rifles) and Sergeant Donolly (Militia), were placed in front

of the Brigade with the drums belonging to the Taranaki Regiment of Militia, and a guard of four men and a sergeant of the 57th was placed as sentries over the colours.

Mrs. Warre, wife of Colonel Warre, C.B., Commanding the Province of Taranaki, who had kindly consented to present the colours, arrived on the ground with his Honour the Superintendent at 11 a.m., preceded a short time before by Colonel Warre, when the 57th and Militia wheeled into line, detachments of Royal Artillery, under Captain Strover, and Royal Engineers, in charge of Sergeant Howatt, on the extreme right and left of the Brigade. The 57th, on each flank of the Militia, now threw their right and left shoulders forward—the right wing commanded by Major Butler and the left wing by Major St. Clair—and formed a three-sided square, the spectators, with Mrs. Warre between the colours, in front and centre, the escort marching forward at the same time, and wheeling to the left and halting to the right of the colours.

The Ven. Archdeacon Govett now proceeded to the consecration of the flags in due form, after which Mrs. Warre, having received the flags from the colour-sergeants, presented them to the senior ensigns of Militia and Volunteers, Messrs. Messenger (Militia) and Jonas (Volunteers), who knelt to receive them. Mrs. Warre then advanced a few steps and read the following address to the Taranaki Regiment:—

Major Herbert, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of the Taranaki Militia and Volunteers,—

The Ladies of Taranaki have done me the honour to select me to present to you these colours, which your country-women desire you to accept as a token of their grateful and affectionate interest, and their deep sense of your bravery and devotion. They beg of you to accept and honour these colours as your rallying standards, should occasion oblige you to unfurl them in defence of your families and your adopted country.

I remind you that the colours of a regiment are considered as pledges of our faith and of our allegiance to our Queen and country; to be honoured

and preserved as a sacred duty, and to be defended to the last, at the cost of life itself. But to you, gallant Militia and Volunteers, who have already fought for your country, and many of you in the ranks of England's noble army—to you who have gone through so many trials, who have seen war and felt its effects in its saddest form—to you I feel that no such appeal is necessary. Whenever you have been called upon, whenever you have been engaged, you have proved that you are worthy of the trust, and have shown that your true English blood has not deteriorated by your transfer to this distant colony.

Most deeply do I sympathise in the misery that the late unhappy struggle has brought upon many who are now assembled here—a struggle that I fully believe had for its end the subversion of the Queen's authority in this country, and possibly the subjugation of her subjects. On you have the results of this struggle most heavily fallen, your families have been scattered, your homes have been destroyed, but you may be sure that England will not allow you to suffer without redress: who ever appealed to England or her beloved Queen in vain? Compensation will, doubtless, be granted for your losses: but you have already a compensation beyond all price, in the knowledge that you have done your duty—that you have suppressed rebellion and upheld the Queen's supremacy.

In concluding, allow me to express the satisfaction I feel in being associated with the Ladies of Taranaki on this occasion: and permit me to offer you, in my own and Colonel Warre's name, our best wishes for your future welfare and success.

Major Herbert, in reply to Mrs. Warre, said:—

Madam,---I feel myself highly honoured at having to address a lady of your position and accomplishments, especially after the feeling and appropriate speech made by you in behalf of the ladies of Taranaki, in presenting these beautiful colours to the Militia and Volunteers I have the honour to command, the gift of the fair and generous ladies of Taranaki.

I can assure you, Madam, that the colours now in the hands of the Militia and Volunteers are in as

good keeping as if locked up in the Tower of London.

I feel anxious, Madam, to give you a brief sketch of the deeds of gallantry performed by the Militia and Volunteers since I have had the honour to command them. On the 28th March, 1860, the first time the Militia and Volunteers were ever under fire, they held their ground, though surrounded by a savage and well-armed enemy, repelling the storm from all quarters, and were as firm as Mount Egmont (and I can only compare them to that beautiful mountain that now emblazons their colours by forming the centre piece) until darkness covered their retreat, guided by Divine Providence. And again, Madam, at Mahoetahi, when the picked men, in fact the elite of the Waikatos, established themselves there, and threatened the very existence of the General and his soldiers, and declared they would drive them into the sea. On the 6th November, 1860, the Militia and Volunteers stormed the heights and pa of Mahoetahi, aided by a company, I may say shoulder to shoulder to a gallant company, of Her Majesty's 65th Regiment. The Waikatos were effectually routed, their chief or leader, Taiporutu, killed, and his son, Hemi Taiporutu, taken prisoner, but not until he had received several wounds, chiefly bayonet ones, leaving their killed and wounded on the ground. And on a great many other occasions, too numerous to mention now, they have also distinguished themselves.

I can assure you, Madam, as commanding officer of the Militia and Volunteers, from what experience I have had of the Militia and Volunteers; that they will never disgrace their colours, and whatever their future destiny or career within their own Province, whether it is to subdue the rebel Natives, or repel an invasion on their shore, they will, I feel satisfied, Madam, always do their duty as true Englishmen, and sooner than disgrace the colours they are now in possession of, their motto would be to a man, "Conquer or die."

I have to thank you, Madam, again in behalf of the gallant men under my command for the honour you have conferred on us this day.

The colours were now taken by the ensigns to the front of the escort, the escort presenting arms and taking post on each side. The Brigade presented arms—the bands played “God Save the Queen”—and afterwards shouldered arms, the Militia Band taking their place in front of the colours and escort, playing “The British Grenadiers,” and marching down the ranks of the Taranaki Regiment, the Brigade again presenting arms. Colonel Warre called for three cheers for Her Most Gracious Majesty, which were heartily given by the whole Brigade; after which, at Colonel Warre’s call, three cheers were given for the Militia and Volunteers of Taranaki and their new colours.

Major Herbert, addressing the men under his command, asked them to join in three cheers for Mrs. Warre and the 57th, which were given with great spirit. The divisions then broke into open column and marched past in quick time, both bands playing. The 57th returned to barracks, the Militia and Volunteers remaining and going through some field exercises.

The colours are made of silk richly embroidered. The Volunteers’ flag is on a black ground, union in the fly, with St. George’s Cross in crimson, a green wreath with orange-coloured blossoms below and a yellow regal crown above the centre piece, which exhibits a view of Mount Egmont embroidered in green and white upon a crimson field, this badge placed in the centre of the cross being encircled by double rows of silver cord, between which “Taranaki Volunteers” is inscribed. The appropriate word “Waireka” is affixed to both colours, and worked in the same letters as “Taranaki Volunteers.” The Militia flag, save the difference of name and corps, and that the ground is blue, and without St. George’s Cross, is a facsimile of that of the Volunteers. Both flags have handsome silver cords and tassels attached.

On the following Friday a ball was given by Major Herbert and the officers of the Militia and Volunteers, and was attended by Colonel Warre, C.B., Mrs. Warre, and most of the officers of the garrison.

CHAPTER X.

FOLLOWING the cessation of hostilities in March, 1861, there was an interlude of peace lasting until May, 1863, during which there was nothing much of note to chronicle concerning the Taranaki Rifles. The Militia were virtually disbanded in February, 1862, employment being found for the men in constructing roads. It must, however, be recorded that at a parade of the Volunteers held on Monday, July 3, 1862, three highly-finished revolvers, with complete attachments, were presented by Captain Stapp, by order of the General Government, to Messrs. F. Mace, Charles Messenger, and to the representative of E. Messenger (deceased) in consideration of their gallant conduct in the field, on the occasion of Captain Cracroft's attack on the pa at Waireka on March 28, 1860.

On December 23, 1862, Lieutenant-General Cameron inspected the Volunteers and Militia, who paraded for the purpose on Poverty Flat. There were in all about 500 present. Battalion movements were gone through by the whole force, and skirmishing, etc., by the Volunteers. After the inspection the General addressed the men, telling the Volunteers that he was glad to be able to report favourably of their numbers and efficiency. It was very creditable, he said, that out of so small a population so many should have come forward to serve voluntarily. He wished the other provinces had followed so good an example. From what he had seen that day, and from the gallantry the Volunteers had displayed on several occasions during the late war, he had no hesitation in saying that they were perfectly fit to act as auxiliaries to the regular forces in the field. He concluded by exhorting them to pay all attention to their military duties, as there was no knowing how soon they might be wanted.

His Excellency Sir George Grey, with General Cameron, arrived in New Plymouth on March 4,

1863, in connection with the restoration of the settlement, for all this time the settlers had not been permitted to return to their land. A week later, on March 11, some excitement was caused when it transpired that a force of military were under orders for Waireka. Next morning 300 men of the 57th, under Colonel Warre, marched to Waireka and encamped on Wilkinson's farm. The same evening the memory of old times was revived when the well-remembered picket bugle call of the Volunteers was sounded, and 120 men were told off for inlying picket and blockhouse duty, and were marched off to their respective posts.

The regulation system of guards and pickets was re-established, the Volunteers only at first being called upon. Six of their number, under Sergeant P. Mace, were appointed mounted orderlies to attend upon the Governor and General Cameron.

On March 18 a detachment of the 70th arrived from Onehunga and at once marched to Mace's farm at Omata, where they encamped, the 57th moving into the redoubt they had constructed on Wilkinson's farm. The troops were engaged in road-making in readiness for a move to Tataraimaka, which took place on April 4.

In the Provincial Gazette of April 4 the acceptance by the Governor of the resignation of Captain I. N. Watt, of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, was notified.

On Monday, May 4, 1863, the inhabitants of the town were thrown into a state of great excitement by the arrival of intelligence that Natives had attacked a party of the 57th on the Wairau beach while on their way to town from Tataraimaka. It transpired the victims were Assistant-Surgeon Hope, Lieutenant Tragett, Colour-Sergeant Ellers, Sergeant Samuel Hill, and four privates of the 57th Regiment. A Gazette was immediately published calling out the Militia for active service, and warning people not to go past the Omata Stockade. At nightfall 200 Volunteers and Militia were told off for duty at the blockhouses and for patrols, and at 7 p.m. were marched off to their respective posts,

while the military in garrison were marched off for particular service.

On Wednesday, May 6th, at 10 a.m., the Militia and Volunteers paraded on Poverty Flat for inspection by General Cameron, who addressed them briefly, expressing his gratification at having them under his command. There was a good muster, and arms and ammunition were served out to those who were not supplied with them. On the following day the Militia and Volunteers assisted at the funeral of the murdered officers and men. A few days later the Military in charge of the block-house at Bell Block were withdrawn, their places being taken by Militia and Volunteers.

His Excellency the Governor, on May 15, appointed Lieutenant F. L. Webster to be Captain of No. 1 Company of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, and Sergeant Horace Simpson to be Lieutenant, both commissions dating from May 11.

On June 1 a general muster of the Militia and Volunteers took place, when the commanding officer, Captain Brown, addressed the men at some length, telling them it was proposed to send parties of men out into the country, who would be placed under officers chosen by the men themselves, and he would like the men to talk the matter over, and then those who were willing to perform this duty could volunteer. If they did not wish to choose him for a leader he was quite willing to go in the ranks with a rifle. The men were dismissed for a short time, and on falling in again 170 men and all the officers stepped forward as volunteers for the service. No. 2 Company of Volunteers, consisting chiefly of young men and bush settlers, all volunteered with about six exceptions—persons whose business duties precluded them from sparing the time. About half of No. 1 Company of Volunteers stepped forward. The services of fifty of No. 2 Company under Captain Atkinson were accepted for the current month.

In the meantime a considerable number of Regulars had been brought from Auckland in anticipation of a renewal of hostilities, while the rebel Natives were closing in and erecting fortified pas.

Actual fighting was resumed on Thursday, June

4, when General Cameron, with a large force, attacked the rebel positions at Katikara, defeating them and inflicting severe losses. On his return to town the General issued an Order offering "his best thanks to Captain Brown and the officers and men of the Taranaki Militia and Volunteers for enabling him to collect an adequate force for the attack, by undertaking the entire protection of the town of New Plymouth in the absence of the regular troops, as well as for the good-will and zeal with which they have always shared the arduous duty since the commencement of hostilities."

Captain Atkinson's little force of 50 Volunteers of No. 2 Company were constantly engaged in little expeditions on their own account, "Native-hunting," and the effect was that instead of having the country around swarming with murdering and marauding savages, not a Native was soon to be found within many miles of the town. Acting as a free-lance, and well informed as to the movements of the rebels, Captain Atkinson would order his men to muster at a stated hour at a stated point; then, in order to conceal his movements as much as possible, he would lead his company perhaps in the very opposite direction to that which he was expected to take. The Herald's Journal of Events declared that "not a track of Natives can now be discovered, and we are informed that so fearful are the rebels of our guerilla parties that in communicating with Mataitawa (Lepperton) they have to go round the mountain. There is no doubt that had the present system been adopted during the last war, an immense amount of valuable property would have been saved, and some of our fellow-settlers, who were savagely butchered within a mile of the town, would now be living amongst us."

The daily beating of the forest lands around the town by Captain Atkinson's Volunteers and volunteers from the 65th and 70th continued. On June 27 a force of military went out to Oakura and shelled a Native pa on the Kaitake Ranges, but on account of the wintry weather operations were suspended and the General went to Auckland, whither a number of the troops were withdrawn.

On July 7, at the request of the men themselves, the number of bushrangers, or "gerillas" as some called them, was doubled. Two parties of forty-five men each—one from No. 2 Company of the Volunteers, under Captain Atkinson and Lieutenants Jonas and Brown, and the other from No. 1 Company of the Volunteers and the Militia, under Captain Webster and Lieutenants Messenger and McKellar—were struck off all other duty and given a free hand to go unrestrainedly about the country. They were all picked men, and were armed with Terry's breech-loading carbines and most of them with revolvers. Both parties (Captain Webster's being in command of Lieutenant McKellar) went out on July 23 with some of the military to explore the country in the direction of Tataraimaka. At Te Ahuahu a few of the enemy were seen, but they showed no inclination to try conclusions. The Volunteers, it was stated, left a note stuck in a fern stalk in the middle of the road leading to the Native pa, which read thus:—"Whai mai ra, whai mai ra, kei tapatapahia to kiri i te manuka e tu ki Oakura ra. Ka whai te riri.—Na te Miriha." This was an old chant of a Maori watchman in the pa, and was an invitation to the enemy to come on if he was not afraid:—"Come on here, come on; but take care you do not scratch your skin with the manuka that grows by the Oakura there (i.e., the soldiers of the redoubt).—(Signed) The Militia."

The chief theatre of operations at this time was in the Waikato, and the military were mostly withdrawn from Taranaki. On August 4 the Oakura redoubt was abandoned. Captain Atkinson's party of bushrangers were moved down as far as Mr. W. Carrington's to co-operate with the soldiers in case of need. From the top of the Oakura hill they had a few shots at the Natives, but with what effect was not ascertained.

Towards the end of September the rebels began to be more active in Taranaki, and several little skirmishes took place, in which the Volunteers had a share, the most serious being on October 2 at Allen's Hill. Both Captain Atkinson's and Captain Webster's companies were engaged in these

skirmishes. They received great praise from Colonel Warre for their behaviour upon a little brush in the Bell district on September 29. The Colonel's report said:—"It is with much pleasure I draw the Lieut.-General's attention to the satisfactory result of this encounter between the Civilian Forces of this Province and the rebel Maoris, and to the persevering efforts of Captains Atkinson and Webster and the officers and men under their command to carry out the important duties entrusted to them. In all weather, and at all hours, have these Companies sought the enemy; and it is to their constant patrolling, not only the immediate vicinity of the town, but the outskirts of settlement, that I attribute the little annoyance we have experienced from the presence of, it is now stated, some 500 of the rebels, who occupy strong positions on the edge of the bush, between the Bell Block stockade and Mataitawa. Captain Atkinson possesses all the energy and perseverance requisite to make him a first-rate "guerilla" leader, and he is most ably seconded by the officers he has trained, as well as by the non-commissioned officers and men who form his force. They have co-operated with the regular troops on several occasions, and I am much indebted to their exertions, their endurance of fatigue, and their willing cheerfulness in the performance of their arduous duties."

In his report of the Allen's Hill affair, Colonel Warre expressed his indebtedness to Captains Atkinson and Webster, of the Volunteers, and all the officers, "who set an example to their men which was nobly responded to." He also singled out for special praise Drummer Dudley Stagpoole, of the 57th, Private Antonio Rodriguez, of the Militia, and Captain Mace of the Militia and his mounted orderlies. The Militia and Volunteer force engaged in this skirmish consisted of Captain Atkinson, Captain Webster, Captain Messenger, Lieut. Jonas, Ensign Brown, Assistant-Surgeon Webber, 5 sergeants, 2 drummers, and 84 rank and file.

In the Taranaki Herald of December 5th, 1863, was published the following list of officers of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, corrected to December 1st:—No. 1 Company: Captain—Fred Lewis Webster, March 15, 1863; Lieutenant—William Black,

October 21, 1863; Ensign—Thomas McGuinness, October 21, 1863. No. 2 Company: Captain—Harry A. Atkinson, March 5, 1862; Lieutenant—Matthew Jonas, May 16, 1863; Ensign—Henry Brown, May 16, 1863. Dr. R. G. C. Spence was gazetted Surgeon to the corps on November 27, his commission being dated November 12.

On Wednesday, December 23, 1863, Colonel Warre made an attack on the native fortifications at Kaitake, in which both companies of Bushrangers, under Captains Webster and Atkinson, took part. A month later the Bushrangers distinguished themselves in a skirmish with a party of Natives at Mangaoraka, in which they punished the enemy severely without suffering themselves. On February 15, 1864, they took part in the occupation of Sentry Hill.

On February 29, 1864, Captain Brown retired from the command of the Militia and Volunteers, while Captain F. L. Webster also resigned his command of No. 1 Company of the Volunteers, owing to private business preventing his giving the necessary time to the duties. Mr. Thomas Good was elected to succeed Captain Webster.

Towards the end of March, 1864, operations were directed by Colonel Warre towards the capture of Kaitake and other Native strongholds at Ahuahu and Te Tutu. His force included the two companies of Bushrangers under Captains Atkinson and Good and 50 of the Rifles and Militia under Lieut. Hirst, besides Regulars and other Volunteers. The operations were entirely successful. A few days later, however, a serious reverse was sustained at Ahuahu, when a small force of the 57th and Victorian Volunteers, about 100 in all, under Captain Lloyd, were surprised by the Natives, the commanding officer being killed, together with five or six men, besides a number wounded. When it was known in town that some disaster had befallen the party Colonel Warre immediately despatched the Bushrangers and a large party of the 57th under Major Butler. The Bushrangers, when the order was given, had just fallen in to attend the funeral of Sergeant Appleby, of the Otago Volunteers, but before they reached the hospital they

were ordered to fall out and get their rifles, which they speedily did, and were soon on their way to Ahuahu. They assisted in bringing in the killed and wounded, but did not come in contact with the Natives.

In the Gazette of April 9th the promotion of Captain Atkinson to the rank of Major, for distinguished service in the field, was notified, the new commission dating from February 26. The Herald remarked that "this appointment will give general satisfaction, except perhaps to the members of his late company, who are very loth to lose him. He will still continue, we believe, to conduct the Bushrangers as hitherto."

A large expedition, under the command of Major Butler, left town on Monday, April 18, to visit the country of the Taranakis, down the coast. The force consisted of about 500 men—150 of the 57th, Captain Mace's mounted men, and 300 Bushrangers, Volunteers, and Military settlers, under Major Atkinson, Captain Good, Lieutenant Jonas, Lieutenant Hirst, Captain Corbett, Captain Messenger, and Captain Brassey. Beyond the destruction of Native crops around Ahuahu nothing much was accomplished, and the force returned to town on the following Thursday.

On April 30 a severe defeat was inflicted upon the Natives at Sentry Hill, but as the Volunteers had no part in the engagement it is unnecessary to refer to it more fully here.

On Wednesday, May 25, at a meeting of Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, Lieutenant Jonas was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Major Atkinson's promotion, and Sergeant Free was elected Lieutenant.

On July 2nd Sergeant M. Carrick was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ensign H. Brown, and Corporal W. Marshall was elected sergeant.

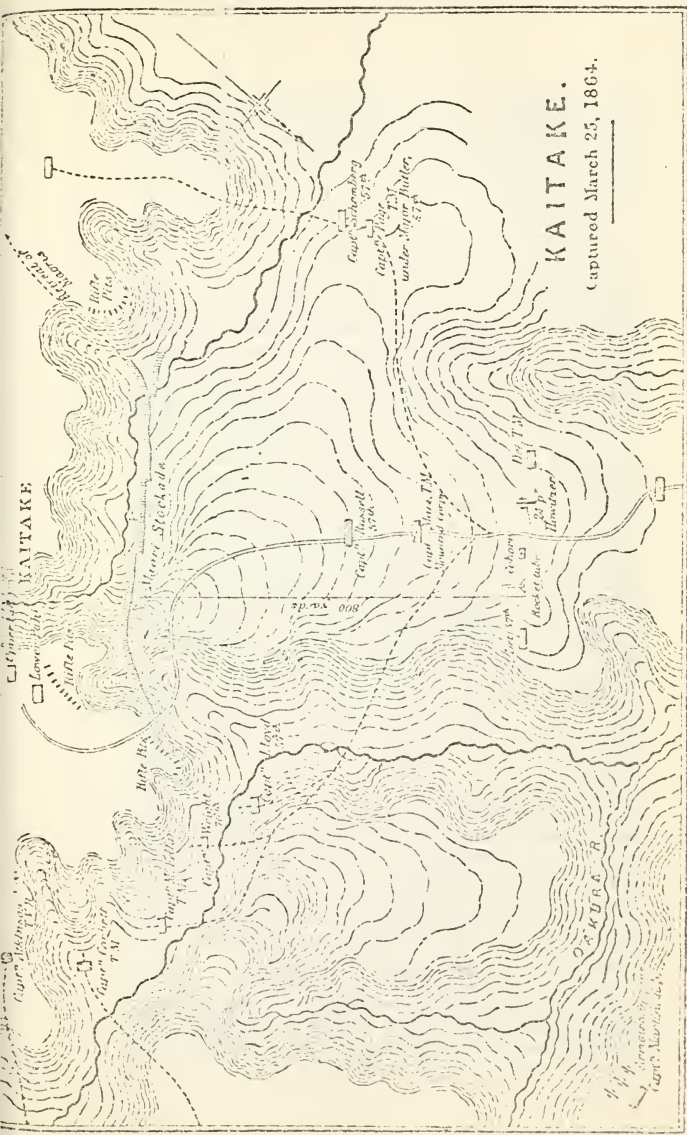
A general meeting of the Volunteers was held on Wednesday, June 29, 1864, to consider what should be done with a certain sum of money to which they had become entitled. Under the regulations issued by the Governor in January, 1862, each Volunteer Company of 60 men was to receive from the Government £75 annually, to provide a

uniform. The Government interpreted the regulations liberally by agreeing to allow twenty-five shillings to each man, and as this was not paid during 1862 and 1863, it amounted by this time to £520. Major Atkinson, who presided at the meeting, pointed out the advantages to the corps of having the money invested so as to produce a small yearly income which might be devoted to prizes for rifle shooting, or in other ways to keep the corps together. He submitted a resolution to this effect, which was seconded by Mr. B. C. Lawrence and carried without serious opposition.

[After the lapse of many years this fund was devoted towards the cost of the present Drill Hall in New Plymouth.]

On October 7, 1864, Major Lepper, late of H.M. 14th Regiment, was gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel in the Taranaki Militia, and therefore in command of the Militia and Volunteers.

Early on the morning of October 8 a force consisting of 200 men of the 70th, two field guns, Captain Good's and Captain Jonas' companies of Bushrangers (100 in all) under Major Atkinson, and Captain Mace's mounted men, left town for Manutahi. At Mahoetahi they were joined by 150 more of the 70th, and the whole force proceeded under the command of Colonel Warre. The force halted a short time at Sentry Hill, while a messenger went on to Manutahi, and shortly afterwards Colonel Warre ordered the advance, and in doing so addressed the Bushrangers, telling them that as they had been so often disappointed he would give them the post of honour, though he did not expect it would be one of much danger. Some friendly Natives went first to see if the Manutahi pa was evacuated, but they were fired upon, and retired. Colonel Warre divided Major Atkinson's men into parties to attack the pa on either side. The Natives in the pa (about 20 in number) fired briskly as the Bushrangers approached, but finding themselves outflanked on both sides they broke and fled. As they ran out of the back of the pa one was killed, another wounded and captured, and a third wounded and escaped. The only casualty among the Volunteers was to Private Scannell, of



KAITAKE.

(captured March 25, 1864.)

1. 1/2" Scale. 2500 Feet. 1864.

No. 1 Company, who was shot through the upper part of the arm. Private Henry Turner had part of the socket of his bayonet shot off. Private F. Ward was first in the pa at the right, with Major Atkinson second. The pa was destroyed by the Bushrangers.

Colonel Warre, with the Bushrangers and some men of the 70th, left town on October 14 for the purpose of examining the country behind Mataitawa. Major Atkinson and his Bushrangers were camped out there for some days, engaged in felling bush along the road to Manutahi. They returned to town on October 31, when they were relieved from duty until again wanted.

Colonel Warre, who did all he could to retain the services of the Militia and Volunteers, issued a handsome recognition of their services in the form of a Garrison order, in the course of which he said, after notifying that the Government had decided to discontinue payment of Militia and Volunteers:—"It is with much regret that Colonel Warre is obliged to dispense with the military services of men who, for upwards of four years, have been enrolled in defence of their families and homes. In making known the orders of the Government, Colonel Warre desires to offer to the whole his heartfelt thanks for the very cordial co-operation they have afforded in very trying times, and the Colonel trusts that although the inhabitants of Taranaki are no longer enrolled as a military body, they will continue that valuable aid in the suppression of the rebellion which has hitherto been so freely given; and which in a savage warfare, such as has unhappily devastated this beautiful country, depends so much on the courage and energy of individuals. To Major Atkinson and the officers and men of the Bushrangers, to Captain Mace and the officers and men of the Mounted Corps, the Colonel's thanks are more especially due; and he is proud to think that their gallant deeds have been recorded in his despatches."

PEACE PROCLAIMED.

Peace was proclaimed by Sir George Grey, Governor, on October 25, 1864, and for a while the activities of the Volunteers were relaxed.

CHAPTER XI.

EARLY in the year 1865 Native disturbances at Wanganni caused a recrudescence of anxiety in Taranaki. On February 13, owing to numerous reports of the presence of hostile Natives in the neighbourhood of New Plymouth, a company of the Bushrangers, numbering 50, under Captain Jonas, Lieutenant Free, and Ensign Lawson, were placed on duty patrolling the country.

On March 21 a number of Bushrangers and Volunteers proceeded to Patea as part of a Bush-ranging Company raised by Colonel Lepper for service in that district.

On April 23 Captain Jonas, Lieutenant Free, Ensign Lawson, and 59 non-coms. and men of the Bushrangers accompanied a military force to the White Cliffs with the object of stopping the reported advance of the Ngatimaniapoto. The Bushrangers were employed on several occasions of this nature, and on returning from Opunake at the beginning of June they had a skirmish with Natives inland of Warea and destroyed a pah.

On August 1, 1865, martial law ceased by proclamation.

About the end of the year all the officers, most of the non-coms., and many of the men of both No. 1 and No. 2 Companies of the Volunteers enrolled for special service at Tikorangi.

In the Gazette of March 24, 1866, it was notified that the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, having omitted to re-enrol themselves under the Volunteer Act, 1865, had ceased to exist as a corps, and Colonel Lepper was appointed to receive the arms and accoutrements in possession of the members. Many of the members, however, continued to serve in other companies, and in March, 1876, the corps was reorganised, its services being accepted as from March 23. At a meeting held at the Militia

office on May 20, 1876, thirty-four members were sworn in and the following officers and non-coms. were elected:—Captain, His Honour Judge Eyre-Kenny; Lieutenant, J. Ellis; Sub-lieutenant, J. Hoskin; Colour-Sergeant, W. F. Brooking; Sergeants, G. D. Thomas and G. Newman; Corporals, W. Baird and R. Cock; Bugler, W. J. Willcocks. The first parade was held on May 29, when several new members were sworn and rules submitted and passed.

On September 11 it was decided to form a band in connection with the corps, and Mr. W. R. Townsend was appointed bandmaster.

In the following month a cadet corps was formed in connection with the Rifles, with Mr. O'Connell as Captain, W. Ainslie as Lieutenant, O. Scott as Sub-lieutenant, T. W. Wood as Colour-Sergeant, W. Bennett and W. Sole as Sergeants, and G. Stemp and E. Morley as Corporals.

In November the Frankley Road rifle range, the cost of which had been defrayed by members of the corps, was opened with a match between the corps and the A.C. Force, the latter proving victors by 207 to 200. In May, 1877, the corps fired a match against the Wangmui Rifle Corps, winning by 393 to 675. On February 27, 1878, the corps varied its operations with a sham fight and picnic at Glenavon.

In the following May a proposal was made to change into an Artillery Corps, but at a meeting on May 24 it was decided by 16 votes to 15 to retain the old title.

On April 8, 1879, Captain Kenny, who had been in command of the corps since its reorganisation in May, 1876, took his farewell of the corps, and left Lieutenant Ellis in command. At this time there was little life in the corps, and on the Queen's Birthday only 16 men mustered to fire the usual feu de joie. A public meeting was held on May 29 to consider the position, at which Lieutenant Ellis stated that only 27 men remained on the roll, exclusive of the band. Over 400 people were present at the meeting, and it was followed by a meeting of the corps, at which it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Sergeant Brooking, to tender the

resignation of the corps. The Taranaki Herald, however, urged another attempt to infuse new life into the corps, and on June 4, at a parade called by Lieutenant Ellis, the strength was increased to 47.

A meeting was held about the same time of persons willing to enrol under special conditions for the defence of the district. Sixty-two men enrolled under the temporary command of Captain Skeet, and a Mounted Corps was also formed, 45 strong, with Captain James Davidson in command.

So threatening was the aspect of Native affairs becoming at this time that corps were also formed at Bell Block, Omata, Inglewood, Okato, Normanby, Stratford, and in other parts of the district.

On June 9, 1873, Lieutenant Ellis was elected to the captaincy of the Rifles, with Sub-lieutenant Hoskin as Lieutenant and Colour-Sergeant Brooking as Sub-lieutenant.

The continued aggressive actions of the Maoris, who were ploughing the land of settlers in some parts of the district, caused recruiting to be very brisk, and the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, instead of only one company, and that moribund, had soon three companies officered as follows:—No. 1, Captain, J. Ellis; First Lieutenant, J. Hoskin; Sub-lieutenant, W. E. Brooking; for general service; sixty strong. No. 2, Captain, H. L. Skeet; First Lieutenant, D. Atkinson; Sub-lieutenant, G. D. Draper; for general service in the district; forty strong. No. 3, Captain, J. T. V. Kirkby; First Lieutenant, C. G. R. Gore; Sub-lieutenant, A. C. Fookes; for service in New Plymouth; sixty strong. In addition there were the following corps: Mounted Rifles, 63; Waitara Rifles, 60; Waitara West Rifles, 50; Bell Block Rifles, 61; Urenui Rifles, 36; Okato Rifles, 52; Omata Rifles, 36; Inglewood Rangers, No. 1, 70; Inglewood Rangers, No. 2, 145; Manutahi Rifles, 71; Tikorangi Rifles, 28; Oakura Rifles, 32; Kent Road Rifles, 30; and Mangorei Rifles, 28; making a total strength of 882. In the southern part of the province there were six corps, numbering 451 men.

Besides the above Volunteer Corps there was

a large force of Armed Constabulary stationed in the district.

In March, 1880, Sergeant Nelson Okey won the New Zealand Champion Rifle Belt, and the company paraded on March 14 to receive him on his return from the meeting.

No. 2 Company was disbanded at the end of April, 1880, and No. 3 Company in September.

At a meeting of the corps on September 14, 1880, Sergeant Cock was elected Colour-Sergeant, and a new uniform was adopted.

CHAPTER XII.

IN October, 1881, Te Whiti was causing some anxiety on account of the great meetings he was holding at Parihaka, when he gave addresses predicting the extermination of the whites. As a consequence the Rifle Volunteers were called out for service on October 25. On this date Newton King was appointed Sergeant, and S. Hooker and W. Webber Corporals.

At half-past twelve on November 3 the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers mustered on the reclaimed land at the foot of Currie Street, where they were inspected by Major Stapp, who addressed a few words to the men previous to their departure for Parihaka. He concluded his remarks by saying he hoped they would keep up the reputation of the corps. A large crowd of people assembled to see them off. The corps was marched down Currie Street into Devon Street and came to a halt in front of the Criterion Hotel. Here Mr. Townsend had his band stationed, which, on the Volunteers again moving, played them out of town amidst the loud cheers of the crowd assembled to see the force off. The following officers, non-commissioned officers, and men answered the roll call:—

Captain Ellis, Lieutenant Hoskin, Sub-lieutenant Brooking, Colour-Sergeant Cook, Sergeants Reilly, N. Okey and N. King, Corporals S. Hooker, S. Howell and Payne, Buglers R. O'Donnell and E. Howell, Volunteers Birch, Lye, M'Manus, M'Gahey, F. Okey, G. Sole, J. Vail, J. Wells, J. Devine, R. Heale, A. Bishop, F. Newell, W. H. Trimble, W. J. Shaw, S. W. Shaw, R. C. Shaw, Richmond, Seamark, A. King, H. J. T. Edmonds, Andrews, A. E. Hudson, Putts, Langley, Evans, Gilbert, S. Warhurst, Laddow, Furze, Stanger, Rodgers, W. Allen, Lorn, Harrison, M'Cullum, A. Devine, R. A. Hooker, J. De Mey, and Tuke; fifty-one rank and file.

Okato was reached that night, and at 10.30 a.m. on the following day the corps arrived in camp at Pungarehu, the Armed Constabulary Band meeting them and playing them to their quarters.

At about 6.30 a.m. on Saturday, November 5, the forces, which included over 1500 Volunteers and Armed Constabulary, commenced to move forward upon Parihaka, Te Whiti's stronghold, from Rahotu and Pungarehu. At the junction of the roads before reaching the village, the forces were formed into two columns, and detachments were filed off to take up positions in order to surround the settlement. The Taranaki Rifles supported the Canterbury and Marlborough Volunteers and Wellington Navals in the occupation of the hills overlooking the village on the right. When the bugle ordering the advance sounded the men all at once appeared on the hills. Simultaneously the Armed Constabulary force, the Thames Scottish Corps, and the Mounted Rifles advanced to the centre of the settlement, where all the Natives were assembled outside their whares. The arresting party, numbering 96 men in all, then received orders to advance close to the marae (open space in centre of settlement), but their progress was impeded by a number of women and children, who held a long rope across the road. This obstacle removed, the men closed upon Te Whiti and Tohu, who were surrounded by their followers. Mr. Butler, secretary to the Native Minister, the Hon. John Bryce, read the Riot Act and the Government Proclamation. Te Whiti made no reply, and an hour was given him in which to consider his answer. When that time had expired Mr. Bryce, through the interpreter, Mr. Huisthouse, told Te Whiti he wanted an answer to the message he had sent him. Te Whiti invited the Minister into his whare, but Mr. Bryce declined the invitation, and repeated his request for an answer, to which Te Whiti replied: "Here I am; if you want me, take me." He was thereupon arrested without the least resistance on his own part or on that of his followers. Tohu was also arrested, and the two chiefs were placed in an express and conveyed to Pungarehu, and subsequently to New Plymouth. Thus Parihaka was taken and the two principal chiefs arrested

without a struggle. The forces were ordered down from the hills and quartered round the settlement in companies.

After a week in camp, during which they were engaged in searching for arms and assisting in further arrests, the Taranaki Rifles were paraded early on Sunday morning, November 13, and started for home, reaching New Plymouth, after a forced march, the same evening. They were met by the band at Grylls' Hotel, on the South Road, and played into town. On arriving opposite the Criterion Hotel the men were drawn up in column, and Major Stapp addressed them as follows:—

“The Taranaki Rifle Volunteers having returned to headquarters, the Hon. the Minister for Defence has directed me to convey to them the thanks of the Government for the readiness with which they have given the colony the advantage of their services in the emergency which so lately had a dangerous aspect, but which I trust has now passed, or is passing away. The Hon. the Defence Minister has also directed me to convey to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men his personal thanks for their good discipline and excellent conduct since they have been in the field. It is very gratifying to me, as officer commanding the district, to have such an eulogium passed on a corps under my command from so high an authority. The Taranaki Rifle Volunteers will be released from active service after this date.”

Cheers were given for Major Stapp and Captain Ellis, and the company then dismissed.

CHAPTER XIII.

AFTER the "Siege of Parihaka" and arrest of Te Whiti and Tohu in November, 1881, there is not much to record of the doings of the Taranaki Rifles. They settled down into the regular routine of drill, inspection, and rifle practice, varied occasionally by reviews or encampments, in all of which, however, they displayed an efficiency worthy of the reputation the Corps had won in active service.

In October, 1882, Sublieutenant W. F. Brooking resigned his commission, and Sergeant Nelson Okey was elected to fill the vacancy thus caused. During this month the want of a drill-shed in which to hold parades was discussed by the Corps. A meeting was held on October 14, when Captain Ellis announced that the Government would give a subsidy of £1 for every £1 subscribed by the public. No further steps were taken, however, and for several years afterwards the drills had to be held on the reclaimed ground near where the Drill-shed now stands. About this time also the Volunteer Band was revived under Bandmaster Drew, and a new set of instruments was obtained.

The Government gazetted new regulations for Volunteers towards the end of 1882, and at a meeting held on January 6, 1883, the Corps decided to come under them, but an effort was required to bring it up to the required strength, 42 rank and file.

When the Governor, Sir William Jervois, visited New Plymouth on October 27, 1883, the Rifles were unable to take any official part in the ceremony of welcome, for the reason that they had no uniforms. They appeared, however, in new uniforms at a parade on January 24, 1884, when Major Stapp, the officer commanding the district, complimented them on their soldierly appearance and efficiency.

On February 23, 1885, Volunteers Wells and F. W. Okey were promoted to the rank of Sergeants,

and Volunteers M'Manus and Rundle to that of Corporals.

On March 23, 1886, the Rifles, under Captain Ellis and Lieutenants Hoskin and Nelson Okey, together with the Hawera Rifles and Inglewood Rangers, were reviewed on the racecourse at New Plymouth by Colonel Sir George Whitmore, who complimented them very highly on their efficiency and drill, and intimated that it was intended to create the corps between New Plymouth and Wanganni into a battalion, with Captain Ellis as Major in command of the right wing.

Consequent on his staff appointment Captain Ellis resigned the command of the corps at the end of March, Lieutenant Hoskin succeeding him as acting-Captain until October 6, when he was gazetted Captain.

The band, which had made great progress under Bandmaster Garry, joined the Corps in May, 1886.

On January 14, 1887, the first review of the West Coast battalion, right wing, took place on the racecourse by Major-General Sir George Whitmore. Some 250 men paraded, and the General, in the course of a short address, spoke of the marvellous progress they had made in their drill. The visiting corps were subsequently entertained by the Rifles.

At the Easter following an encampment was held at Waiwakaiho, on Mr. W. Bayly's property on the right bank of the river between the Devon Road and the sea. It was attended by about 2000 Volunteers, including Cavalry, Artillery, Navals, and Rifles, from all parts of the North Island, as well as from Nelson, Westport, Greymouth, and Blenheim in the South Island. The Taranaki Rifle Volunteers were in command of Captain Hoskin and Lieutenants Nelson Okey and Cook.

Very quiet times ensued, the monotony of drill and parade, parade and drill, not being varied even by any change in the command until March 6, 1889, when Captain Hoskin resigned and Lieutenant Reginald Bayley, of the New Zealand Militia, was elected to the position of Captain, making his first appearance on parade on April 4. He passed the requisite examinations and was gazetted Captain on October 2.

During this year (1889) steps were taken to deal with the old Volunteer Fund, which had been subscribed many years previously by the officers and men. The fund at this time amounted to £413, in addition to which there was land valued at £100. The contributors to the fund were invited to send in claims to participate in it, and a Board of Officers was appointed to investigate the claims, which resulted in 391 claims being admitted. A meeting of the claimants, held on December 11, carried a resolution that the fund be placed in the hands of trustees, composed of the officer commanding the district, the officer in command of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, and Captain Mace, towards the erection of a drill-shed and a suitable tablet to the memory of Taranaki Militiamen and Volunteers who fell in the Native wars between 1860 and 1866.

It was not, however, until two years later that active steps were taken towards providing a drill-shed, although the company suffered under considerable discomfort and disability in having no covered parade ground. Early in 1902 the Volunteer Fund, amounting in all to £509, was placed in the hands of the member of the House of Representatives for the district, the officer commanding the district, the captain commanding the corps, Colonel Trimble, and Captain Mace, as trustees. The Government at the same time gave a subsidy of £300 and also granted a site and the material of the old Militia office and the Marshland Hill barracks to assist in the undertaking. Mr. W. F. Brooking, formerly a lieutenant in the corps, was engaged as architect, and prepared plans for a building. The site was that on which the old Militia office stood, and here the new building was erected. A portion of the old office was demolished, the front part, facing Gird Street, only being retained to serve as ward-room, &c. Behind this the main building was erected. It covers an uninterrupted floor space 84 feet by 66 feet, and is a wooden frame building, covered with corrugated iron, upon concrete foundations. The contract was carried out by Mr. T. S. Bond, and completed early in May, 1902. The building was informally opened on May 24, when the company's annual ball was held within it.

The formal opening took place on the afternoon of June 18, when the Volunteers paraded under Major Ellis and Lieutenants Okey and Cook, together with the Band under Bandmaster Garry. There were also some 200 of the old Militia and Volunteer Companies present. On the platform were Colonel Stapp, Major Ellis, Brigade-Surgeon O'Carroll, Colonel Trimble, Captain F. L. Webster, Captain F. J. Mace, Lieutenant T. Kelly, Captain Bayley, Lieutenant M. Carriek, Lieutenant C. M. Kyngdon, and Captain Jonas, while among the audience were Major Parris, Captain Armstrong, Captain J. Kelly, and Lieutenant W. H. Free. Colonel Stapp gave a short address and handed over the colours, of which he had had charge for thirty-one years, to Lieutenants Okey and Cook, the Band meanwhile playing the National Anthem. He then formally declared the Drill Hall open amid cheers.

Shortly afterwards a memorial tablet was placed in the Hall, upon which was the following inscription:—

In memory of the Taranaki Militia and Volunteers who fought and fell in the Maori Wars in the years from 1860 to 1866.

MILITIA.

Captain William Cutfield King
 Captain Richard Brown
 Sergeant Peter Fahey
 Private Samuel Shaw
 Private Samuel Ford
 Private John Hurford
 Private John Hawken
 Private George Patterson
 Private Joseph Sarten
 Private Henry Passmore
 Private William Wright

VOLUNTEERS.

Trooper John Sarten
 Trooper Arscot Bayly
 Trooper Patrick O'Neill
 Trooper Joseph Hawke
 Private Ephraim Coad

Private Henry Edgecombe
Private Corbyn Harris
Private Henry Crann
Private Frank Brown
Private Edward Messenger

CHAPTER XIV.

HAVING traced the history of the corps from its first formation in 1859 to the present day it remains only, in conclusion, to add a few notes about its present condition and future prospects. The corps has attained a high state of efficiency and has no difficulty in securing recruits to fill up any vacancies that from time to time occur. As is only fitting in the case of "a corps with a history"—only possible, indeed, with a corps possessing traditions of active service—its headquarters are redolent of that history and those traditions. During his command Captain Bellringer interested himself keenly in gathering together records and portraits connected with the corps' early services. In the orderly room at the Drill Hall, itself a part of the old Militia Office, are displayed quite a number of interesting records and portraits. To begin with there is a copy of the proclamation by Governor Gore-Browne, quoted on pp. 6-7 of this volume, authorising the formation of the original corps on January 13, 1859. Then there is a photograph, reproduced in another part of this book, of the corps on the occasion of the presentation of the colours on June 25, 1861. In another place is hung a framed copy of the original roll of the corps and of the Taranaki Mounted Rifles in 1860-1865, and a list of life members of the corps. Copies of the despatches bearing testimony to the gallantry of Captain Mace, N.Z.C., and Trooper Antonio Rodriguez, N.Z.C., find a prominent place on the walls. Four photographs of great historical interest are those of the Waireka veterans, the forces in camp at Parihaka on the occasion of the arrest of the prophet Te Whiti on November 5, 1881, the Armed Constabulary at White Cliffs, the scene of the massacre of the Rev. John Whiteley, the Gascoigne family, and others, and the officers concerned in the capture of the noted rebel chief Te Kooti. Colour is given to the scene by the

hatchments painted and presented by Sergeant Black, a member of the corps, bearing the arms, colours, and achievements of the various Imperial regiments which took part in the Maori wars in Taranaki.

Among the numerous portraits hung round the walls may be found those of former captains of the Rifles—Captain I. N. Watt, Captain H. A. Atkinson, Captain F. L. Webster, Captain T. Good, Captain Matthew Jonas, Captain H. Eyre-Kenny, Captain J. Ellis, Captain J. Hoskin, Captain R. Bayley, Captain J. Paul, Captain Nelson Okey, Captain C. H. Weston, Captain F. W. Okey, and Captain F. T. Bellingranger. Two photographs presented by the late Colonel Stapp and a coloured plate of the "New Zealand Hill" fight in South Africa in 1900 also find a place. Among the trophies are several old rifles and bayonets taken from the Maoris in 1860 and some rifles and pieces of artillery captured from the Boers. Photographs of the company at various periods, and of riflemen and teams who have represented the corps in shooting contests are numerous. Such surroundings should have the effect of inspiring among present and future members a spirit of pride in a corps which can boast such traditions.

A few words must be added concerning the shooting records of the corps, which always held a high place in that respect among the volunteer companies of New Zealand. It has already been chronicled that Sergeant Nelson Okey, afterwards Captain, won the New Zealand Champion Rifle Belt in 1880. On another occasion a member of the corps, Mr. T. Humphries, the late Surveyor-General, tied for the Belt, but lost in the shoot-off. The company's belt has been keenly competed for on very many occasions, and is now the property of Captain F. W. Okey, who won it outright in 1898. The name plates bear the following names of winners:—1881, Lieut. J. Hoskin, Vol. E. Howell; 1882, Lieut. J. Hoskin, Vol. F. W. Okey, Lieut. J. Hoskin; 1883, Lieut. J. Hoskin, Vol. E. Howell, Vol. J. Wells; 1884, Vol. E. Howell, Lieut. J. Hoskin; 1885, Lieut. E. N. L. Okey, Corp. S. Barriball, Vol. J. H. Howell, Corpl. R. McGonagle;

1886, Sergt. S. Barriball (twice); 1887, Corpl. C. Barriball, Lieut. E. N. L. Okey, Vol. E. Howell;; 1888, Capt. J. Hoskin, Corpl. A. Morton, Vol. T. A. Hempton; 1889, Corpl. T. A. Hempton, Sergt. A. Morton; 1890-1895, no records; 1896, Col.-Sergt. F. W. Okey; 1897, Col.-Sergt. F. W. Okey; 1898, Col.-Sergt. F. W. Okey, whose property the belt then became.

The corps contributed twenty-five men, whose names will be found in an appendix, to the various contingents which served in the South African War 1899-1902. This number is, it is believed, greater than any other individual corps, save perhaps one, in New Zealand contributed.

Looking back for an instant it has to be recorded that the removal of Captain Bayley to Wellington in March, 1891, left the company without a captain. Lieutenant Nelson Okey assumed the command until July, 1892, when Mr. James Paul was elected to the position. He was, however, not formally gazetted until October 5, 1892. He continued to command the corps until February 14, 1894, when he resigned his commission, Lieutenant Okey again filling the gap. A few months later Captain Bayley, having returned to New Plymouth, was persuaded to again take his old position, which he held until March 25, 1896, when he resigned. Lieutenant Okey was elected to the vacancy and was gazetted captain as from August 19, 1896. Under Captain Okey's long and able command the corps increased in efficiency and it was with genuine regret that his resignation was accepted on April 22, 1902, on his receiving a staff appointment. Captain Claude Weston, who had seen service in the Christ College Rifles, Canterbury, was asked and consented to fill the vacancy, bringing to his duties considerable enthusiasm. His appointment dated from July 20, 1902, but on his also receiving a staff appointment the corps was again left without a captain on November 19, 1904. Lieutenant F. W. Okey, as senior lieutenant, assumed command, and was elected to the position of captain, being gazetted on December 13, 1905. On May 16, 1907, Captain Fred Okey resigned and Lieutenant Felix T. Bellringer was elected to the vacancy to which he was gazetted on May 28, 1907. Captain Bellringer held the

command until July 3, 1909, when he, too, was appointed to the battalion staff, as Captain and Adjutant. Lieutenant W. Fletcher, who had seen service in South Africa, was elected to the vacancy on August 16, 1909.

CHAPTER XV.

On January 13, 1909, an unique gathering was held at the Drill Hall, New Plymouth, when the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Taranaki Volunteer Rifle Company was celebrated by a dinner, at which there were present several members of the original company, a full muster of present members, a large number of veterans who had seen service with the regulars and militia during the Maori wars, several members of South African contingents, and many public and private citizens. Captain Bellringer presided and had on his right hand Colonel Robin, C.B., Chief of Staff, Colonel Ellis, Colonel Messenger, Major Malone, Captain M'Kellar, Lieutenant Beadle (Guards), Lieutenant Johnstone (Hawera Rifles), and Hon. Thomas Kelly, M.L.C. On his left were his Worship the Mayor (Mr. G. Tisch), Colonel E. N. L. Okey, V.D., Captain-Adjutant Weston, Captain Wright (Hawera Rifles), Captain John Black, Captain Mace, N.Z.C., and Mr. H. Okey, M.P. Other officers present were Staff Chaplain F. G. Evans, Major Sandford, Captain F. W. Okey, Captain G. Cock, V.D., Captain M'Hardy, Captain Isaac Bayly, Lieutenant M. Carrick, Lieutenant C. B. Lever, Lieutenant W. Fletcher, and Sergeant-Major Armitage. Apologies for absence were received from Sir Joseph Ward (Minister of Defence), Lieutenant-Colonel Bauchop (Officer Commanding the District), Captain H. Eyre-Kenny, Captain Standish, Captain C. T. Mills (Taranaki Guards), Hon. O. Samuel, M.L.C., Mr. W. T. Jennings, M.P., Mr. F. P. Corkill, and Messrs. L. A. Hamerton, R. N. Greenwood, G. Hoby, G. N. Curtis, T. Veale, J. Coleman, Lieut. W. H. Free (original members of the corps).

Prior to the commencement of the toast list Bugler W. Okey sounded the old bugle call of the company, after which Captain Bellringer read the original roll, which was answered by the following: Lieutenant M'Kellar, Corporal Bertrand,

Drummer W. Lawrence, Privates I. Bayly, J. Black, M. Carriek, T. Kelly, W. B. Messenger, E. T. Morshead, and W. D. Webster. These veterans were greeted with hearty applause as they rose in answer to their names.

The toast of "The King" having been honoured, the Mayor proposed "The Navy and Army," to which Colonel Robin and Colonel Messenger replied, the latter seizing the opportunity to mention the debt that Taranaki owed to the Navy on the historic occasion of Waireka, when Captain Cracroft and his gallant tars from the *Niger* created a diversion which enabled the Taranaki Rifles to retire from a particularly tight place. Those sailors were led on the occasion right up to the Maori pa by Captain Mace, who was present that night, and two of the speaker's brothers.

"The Parliament of New Zealand" was proposed by Mr. Penn, who recalled how one of the greatest patriots New Zealand had known—Sir Harry Atkinson—had first served his country as a soldier, as leader of the Taranaki Rifles and Bushrangers, and afterwards as a statesman.

The Hon. Thomas Kelly, M.L.C., one of the original members of the Taranaki Rifle Corps, and Mr. Harry Okey, M.P., responded to the toast.

Colonel Ellis proposed "The Taranaki Battalion," to which Colonel Okey, Major Malone, and Captain and Adjutant Weston responded.

The toast of the evening, "The Taranaki Rifles," was proposed by Colonel Robin, who expressed his pleasure at seeing present so many of those heroes of the old time, men who joined the company on its original foundation and served with it in war time. Speaking to the present members of the company, he said that old members had handed down to them a heritage to keep—handed down to them the colours of the corps, which occupied a place of honour among the decorations that evening, and which had gained their respect and their admiration. And what wonder! To the present Taranaki Rifles was passed on a sacred and serious responsibility. Ruskin, the man of peace, wrote to those who were training to lead

men words that it would perhaps not be amiss to repeat:—

“Idleness is a thousandfold greater sin in those learning to be a soldier than in any other profession of life; for the fates of those you have to command hang on your knowledge, and wasted time now means lost lives then, and every instant given to careless pleasure you will buy with blood then.”

When Huskin wrote those words he did not mean their play or games and so on, but the weekly parade. Just as fifty years ago it was said that Taranaki was defenceless, they were often told that New Zealand was defenceless to-day; but should the call come again, as it might and probably would, the Taranaki Volunteers and the volunteer corps throughout the Empire would prove, as the Taranaki Volunteers did fifty years ago, that they were able to defend their country. He had much pleasure in proposing “The Taranaki Rifles past and present,” and coupling with the toast the names of Colonel Messenger and all those in the original company of Rifles and the present officers of the present company.

Captain Bellringer, in responding on behalf of the present company, referred to the unique nature of the gathering. They had present members of the older generation who fought in the New Zealand and other wars, they had men present who joined the company later on, and, although they did not see active service, yet proved by undergoing training as volunteers that they were willing and ready to take up their share of the defence of the country should necessity arise; they also had among them members of the company who volunteered for service in South Africa and upheld the honour of New Zealand in such a glorious way in that war, and they had the younger men, present members of the corps; and as the older men fought in the early battles and as members of the contingents fought in South Africa, so he hoped and believed these younger men would not be found wanting if called upon to take the field. An occasion like this naturally caused one to look back on the labours

of those who had preceded them in the corps. In the early days volunteers suffered under disadvantages that were not met with now. It had been said that the Government did not do enough for volunteering, but he was prepared to admit that to-day they were treated right royally as compared with the way volunteers were treated in the olden days. At that time beyond supplying the rifle the Government did very little towards encouraging volunteers. Volunteers on the original formation of the corps even had to provide their own uniforms. There was no Government capitulation as now, no paid daylight parades, and other advantages they had to-day. But there was plenty of life in the movement, and the fact that those men had to shift for themselves gave them self-reliance and independence. They had shown them the example and given them a history of which they were proud indeed, and handed down traditions of which they felt the responsibility. He trusted that from captain down to the last recruit they would never do anything that would tend to in any way reflect on the reputation of the corps or the honourable traditions handed down to them.

Colonel Messenger, Captain I. Bayly, Captain M'Kellar, Captain Mace, the Hon. T. Kelly, and Mr. Henry Hooker also responded, their remarks being chiefly reminiscent of the old fighting days, especially the battle of Waireka.

Staff-Chaplain F. G. Evans proposed "The Veterans and Representatives of New Zealand Contingents in the South African War," to which Captain Mace, Captain Cock, and Lieutenant Fletcher replied.

The National Anthem brought this interesting and in some respects unique gathering to a close.

TARANAKI RIFLE VOLUNTEERS' ROLL OF HONOUR.

List of Taranaki Rifle Volunteers who received the New Zealand Medal, having been either under fire or attached to her Majesty's Imperial Forces during the war of 1860-1870.

Corporal Francis Adams, jun., Private W. S. Allen, John Andrews, Erasmus Armitage, Hansen Arden, F. H. Arden.

Robert Baker, sen., Robert Baker, jun., William Barriball, Corporal Francis Banbury, jun., Private R. Bayley, Percy F. W. Bayley, Alfred Bailey, James Bayley, Arthur Bayley, Daniel Bayley, George J. Bayly, Isaac Bayly, Colour-Sergeant George Bentley, Sergeant William Berridge, Private Thomas J. Billing, Zechariah Bezar, Geo. Bertrand, Thomas Billiard, Alexander Binnie, Thomas J. Billing, E. G. Blackmore, Lieutenant Wm. Black, Sergeant John Black, Private Walter Black, Corpl. William Brooking, Private Henry William Brewer.

Private George T. Cherry, John Chicken, Thomas Clare, George Corbett, James Corbett, George Cook, Frank Courtaey, Charles Curtis, William Curtis, Joseph Corney.

Corporal Henry Davy, Private Mauley Dickson.

Private John Eliot, Patrick Esther.

Lieutenant Willim Henry Free.

Private Thomas J. George, James C. George, W. Giddy, T. E. Ginger, Diston Ginger, Stanley Ginger, Irwin W. Grayling, W. G. Gray, C. Greenway

Private William Halse, David Hawkins, James Hamblyn, G. B. Haigh, Charles Hamblyn, Ralph Harper, Corporal J. C. Hall, H. T. Hall, Edwin

Hammond, Corbyn Harris, Lieutenant R. C. Hamerton, Bugler G. D. Hamerton, Sergeant James Hirst, Private Thomas Hinde, Richard Hoskin, Corporal Nathaniel Hooker, Private A. J. Hoskin, Josiah Hoskin, Simcon Howell, George Hoby, George Hoby, jun., Oliver C. Hoby, Sergeant Edwin Hollis, Private Henry Hunt, William Hurford, Corporal Edward Humphries, Corporal William Humphries, Ensign Thomas Humphries.

Private Thomas Ibbotson, Paul Inch, Thomas Inch.

Sergeant M. J. Jonas, Private Israel Jordan, Samuel Jell, Sergeant M. J. Jones, Private Timothy Jones, Lance-Corporal Henry Judd, Sergeant George Jupp.

Private J. W. Kenah, R. N. Keeling, Henry Kemp, Adolphus Kyngdon, Augustus Kyngdon, Thomas King.

Charles Lauder, B. C. Lawrence, Ensign J. R. Lawson, Corporal John Lauder, Private Edward B. Laing, Charles Lethbridge.

Alexander Marr, H. S. Matthews, Peter Martin, W. P. Martin, Sergeant W. Marshall, William Messenger, John McDonald, J. K. McDonald, D. B. McDonald, Lieutenant Thomas McGuinness, Sergeant-Major C. McGahey, Bernard McManus.

George S. Newland, John Nodder.

Corporal Charles Olliver, Sergeant Francis Olliver, Private William Oliver, Oliver Oxenham.

Private William Paul, William Payner, Alfred Pearce, John Pepperell, Charles A. Pope, Corporal James Parnell, Corporal G. B. Purdey, Private James Pugh.

Charles Rassman, Charles Edward Rawson, Surgeon Thomas Edward Rawson, Sergeant Henry Freer Rawson, Private James Reynolds, J. C. Reynolds, John Richards, William Edward Robertson, Lieutenant Fred C. Rowan, Sergeant James A. Ronalds, Corporal Francis Ronalds, Sergeant Hugh Ronalds, Richard Rundle, Samuel Rundle.

George Sampson, C. George Scannell, W. H. Seccombe, J. W. Sheppee, W. Henry Skinner, Sergeant W. A. Spurdle, Sergeant Francis Stevens, Private George Stockman, J. G. Sutherland.

W. G. Tatton, F. F. Trent, Peter Trotter.

Sergeant Thomas Veale, Private William Vercoe,
 Private Henry Wallis, Sergeant William
 Watkins, Lance-Corporal Sol. Warhurst, Private
 Charles Walker, John Ward, Captain F. Lewis
 Webster, Corporal Warwick Weston, Sergeant
 Robert Wells, Private William Dawson Webster,
 W. J. Weston, Bugler E. S. Wilcocks, Private
 Thomas Wills, Frederick Windsor, Henry Windsor,
 Captain P. G. Wilson, William Wilson, Edward
 Wright.

Members of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers who
 lost their lives during the Maori War, 1860 to 1866:

Private E. Coad, Private H. Edgecombe, Private
 C. Harris, Private H. Cram, Private F. Brown,
 Private E. Messenger.

CAPTAIN MACE'S NARRATIVE OF WAIREKA.

Although the Rifles and Militia had been embodied for some months previously, it was not till March, 1860, at Waireka, that their baptism took place, and then the circumstances were such that, though their ranks were composed of settlers who had left England to obtain a peaceful home in New Zealand, and who found that those homes, to produce which they had toiled for years, and suffered privations and hardships, were now doomed to destruction and the lives of their dear ones to annihilation, who had themselves no training or intention of fighting, yet when put to trial they covered themselves with glory by their behaviour under circumstances which would have daunted seasoned troops. The conduct of the officer commanding the regulars was such that no words will express the estimation in which such a man should be held.

Captain Mace, who acted in attachment to the commanding officers throughout the war, gives a graphic account of his part in the Waireka fight.

“On March 28, 1860, a strong force, consisting of regular troops with Rifles and Volunteers, had left New Plymouth for Omata. As soon as they came in touch with the enemy, who were in a gully, the regulars remained on the hill on the town side, the Volunteers being sent away so as to occupy the hill on the far side of the gully. The Maoris were fighting, and some casualties took place. After a time Major Murray, who was in command, ordered a retreat to be sounded, alleging as an excuse that the troops were ordered to be back in New Plymouth by 4.30 p.m. When his attention was drawn to the position of the

Volunteers and the predicament (which meant annihilation) they would be in if the troops were withdrawn, he made use of the words: 'They have got themselves into a mess, and they must get out of it the best way they can.' Surely no other British commander was ever so callous of his men, and this when he knew they had wounded to secure, of whom were William Bayly, Hawken and others. The troops accordingly began to withdraw. Meantime Captain Cracroft had landed some men from the Niger on the beach, and I was told off to lead them to the fighting point. As they reached Omata orders were received to retire. Captain Cracroft said, 'I am going to the pa,' and fired three rockets into it. Then an orderly rode up conveying another and peremptory order for the sailors to retire, as the troops were marching through the village on their way to town. No notice was taken, further than for the Captain to say to his men, 'Do you see that flag? To the man who gets it I will give £10.' On hearing this there was a cheer, a rush down the hill, and the pa was taken. This drew the Natives, who had had the Volunteers penned up, and allowed the latter to get off without a further shot being fired. It was a critical time, as all their ammunition was expended. When the Niger's men saw a body of Volunteers (the first occasion in British history for Volunteers to be under fire) standing to their posts, though left by the force that should have supported them, they were struck with admiration. When they came to mix with the Volunteers on the way to New Plymouth their admiration extended to the number and variety of oaths which the Volunteers used to express their opinion of British comradeship."

Captain Mace, in his official position, throughout the war had time and again opportunities of fighting with the Volunteers, and says he would never wish to command finer men, and never saw the slightest sign of wavering in the field. It was from the Rifles that, when a man was wanted in the Mounted Corps, he was drafted, and the choice was arduous, as there were so many good men to pick from. The mounted men were always

about with the commanding officers, so they saw more of the actual fighting and the work of other corps, therefore special instances of the Rifles' bravery are hard to particularise, but they were all together at Mahoetahi, where the conspicuous pluck of the Volunteers caused the destruction of a large body of Natives.

So much Captain Mace tells of his experiences of the Rifles, but from the men themselves it is very hard to draw much detail of their individual work. There seems to be a feeling amongst these old battlers that any description of a fight in which they took part and in which every individual did his utmost would, if detailed by themselves, bear a construction equivalent to "blowing his own trumpet." After a word or two they close up like an oyster, and nothing further can be got from them.

At times one can get a casual story, as when on one occasion, at Warea, Captain Atkinson and one of his men having at the same time reason to believe Maoris were about, started off to stalk their prey. After some time they got one on each side of a big log, and each thought he had the Maori on the other side. Each rose at the same time to pot, and one looked down a carbine's mouth while the other stared at the chambers of a revolver. One said, "Is that you, D——?" the other "It's me, Captain."

On another occasion in the bush at Ngakumikuni two men were after pigs: their officer (now Sir Charles Clarke, Governor of Malta) had seen them crossing the Warea River and had followed them. The men excused themselves by saying they were taking their horses to feed in a nice bit of fresh clover. However, they got to the bush and amongst the pigs: one was caught and hoisted on horseback, and another was caught and tied ready, when a dozen Maoris appeared and fired so close that one man's face was blackened with the powder. The officer called out "Drop the pigs and clear." Luckily the afternoon resulted in one pig and no casualty.

One time the regulars under Colonel Colvile planned an ambush at Warea. The troops were

placed in hiding on the face of a hill. The mounted men rode round the hill to decoy the Natives, and a body of Volunteers was so placed as to still further induce the Maoris to come out to get at them. All went well. The Natives followed the mounted men, the Rifles showed themselves and drew the fire of the Maoris, which proved too high to do much harm. The Maoris rode within a few feet of the hidden soldiers, but were not fired at. It transpired that the Colonel had ordered the troops not to fire till he gave the word, and at the critical moment he was on the other side of the hill, so instead of killing the lot of the Maoris, the Maoris bagged a soldier or two and the Colonel got a shot in his thigh.

Had imperial troops been engaged in the guerilla work of our Rifles and other Volunteers, a record of these and like events would have been made and kept in the regimental archives; but our men, knowing their duty done and their country saved, hid their heroism, and in a few short years the survivors (now too few) will be gone, and with them the possibility of the story of deeds which, had they occurred to regular troops on pitched battle fields, would have won honours and renown, and their history would have been compiled and handed down to posterity as a stimulus and incentive for the future generations. Can anything be done to save these events from oblivion? Can anything be done to make our friends and neighbours of modern times realise that only a short fifty years ago the country from Waitara to Opunake, now so peaceful, so prosperous, so full of dwellings, stock, factories and useful employment, was the scene of battles, sieges, bloodshed, murders, devastations, and individual heroism which, had a Russell or a Forbes been there to write the story, would thrill the blood as do the events of the Sikh wars or the Matabele rebellion?

Members of the Corps who served in the South African War 1900-1902.

Reg. No.	Rank	Name	Contd.	Medal	Class
431 ...	Trooper	Gill, C.	... 2nd	Queen's S.A.	... Johannesburg, C. Colony O.F. State, S.A./01
852 ...	Trooper	Richardson, T.	... 3rd	"	... Johannesburg, Dia. Hill Cape Colony, O.F. State South Africa 1901
1568 } 8916 } ...	Trooper Sergeant	Allen, W. "	... 4th } ... 10th }	"	... Cape Colony, Transvaal Rhod., S.A./01-02
2488 ...	Trooper	Lister, A. P.	... 5th	"	... Cape Colony, Transvaal Rhod., S.A. 1901
2289 ...	Trooper	Robbie, A. B.	... 5th }	"	... Cape Colony, O.F. State
4685 ...	Sergeant	"	... 7th }	"	... Transvaal, Rhodesia
3519 ...	Lieutenant	"	... 10th }	King's S.A.	... S.A. 1901-02
4214 ...	Trooper	McKeown, A.	... 6th	Queen's S.A.	... Cape Colony, Transvaal O.F. State, S.A./01-02
4617 ...	Trooper	Vereoe, R.	... 7th	"	... Transvaal, O.F. State S.A. 1901-02
4184 ...	Trooper	De Launey, L.	... 7th	"	... Transvaal, O.F. State S.A. 1901-02
4208 ...	Trooper	Kendall, E. J.	... 7th	"	... Transvaal, O.F. State S.A. 1901-02
...	Trooper	Sadler, C.	... 7th	"	... Transvaal, O.F. State S.A. 1901-02

Members of the Corps who served in the South African War 1899-1902—Continued.

Reg. No.	Rank.	Name	Contgt.	Medal.	Clasps.
6348	Trooper	Hendry, P.	...	8th Queen's S.A.	Cape Colony, Transvaal S.A. 1902
5231	Trooper	Murphy, A.	...	8th "	Cape Colony, Transvaal S.A. 1902
5250	Trooper	Street, R.	...	8th "	Cape Colony, Transvaal S.A. 1902
5251	Trooper	Street, A.	...	8th "	Cape Colony, Transvaal S.A. 1902
5202	Trooper	Davidson, W. P.	...	8th "	Cape Colony, Transvaal S.A. 1902
8226	Trooper	Sadler, A. E.	...	9th "	Transvaal, O.F. State S.A. 1902
7293	Trooper	Duller, H. J.	...	9th "	Transvaal, S.A. 1902
7101	Trooper	Simons, W.	...	9th "	" "
7807	Trooper	Pycroft, W.	...	9th "	" "
458	Trooper	Robbie, C. E.	...	9th "	Johannesburg, C. Colony
	Lieutenant	"	...	10th "	O.F. State
9000	Trooper	Preston, D.	...	10th "	S.A. 1901-02
			...		S.A. 1902
430	Trooper	Hempton, T. A.	...	2nd "	Cape Colony
7390	Trooper	Johns, Ernest	...	9th "	Transvaal, S.A. 1902
	Trooper	Crombie, C. W. V.	...	Natal Volunteers	
	Trooper	Brown, Chas. Keats	...	Scott's Railway Guards,	Canadian Scouts, Medal Queen's,
			...	Ciaspas, Transvaal,	Cape Colony and O.R.C. 1901-02

A warning that racial relations in New Zealand were not always so good as they were now, and therefore could deteriorate again, was given by the Rev. M. Cameron, Waitara Maori Missioner, in an address at yesterday's commemorative service on the site of the Battle of Waireka.

The full text of his address is as follows:

"Because this is a pakeha-Maori event, I begin with an English, then a Maori quotation:

There is some soul of goodness
in things evil

Would men observingly distil it
out;

For our bad neighbour . . .

. . . are our outward con-
sciences.

And preaches to us all.

"This is Shakespeare's Henry V
at Agincourt.

"Ehara te toka i a Kiha, he toka
ifi, he toka.

Whitianga ra; tena ko te toka i
Mapuna, ko te ripo kau tau
e kite ai.

"This is a well-known North
Auckland proverb about two rocks
at Hokianga. A rough translation
is: Kiha is not the rock; it is, in
fact, small, a mere stepping-stone,
but watch out for Mapuna, whose
ripple alone is visible.

"No greater contrast can be
imagined than that between the
Anzac and this Waireka commemora-
tion. Anzac is big; this, small.
Anzac's appeal is wide, extending
beyond this Dominion; this, paro-
chial. The other celebrates our fight
in a common cause; this, when we
fought each other. Anzac is remem-
bered with universal pride; but
our natural instinct is rather to
suppress or ignore the likes of Wai-
reka. And so indeed would it have
passed unnoticed, but for the
Historical Society.

"In spite of all this, I be-
lieve that for the sake of our
people's future co-operation and pro-
gress, Waireka is far and away more
significant than Anzac. And my
hope is that every pakeha and
Maori would ponder upon its lessons,
wherever in New Zealand they
have to live in a single com-
munity.

"Granted that Waireka was
only a minor engagement: the casu-
alties, British—two killed, 15 wound-
ed, out of 275; the Maori—some 100-
125 casualties out of about 800. But
its consequences were far-reaching.

"It was to ensue in the disastrous
wars of the sixties, which spread
from Taranaki to Waikato and
elsewhere. The North Island's
economy suffered severely and the
subsequent relations between our
two peoples were poisoned over a
very long period. On the Maori part,
the peace that followed was harsh,
bitter and demoralising.

"Today we are one nation. We
stand here to give humble tribute
to men who gave their lives as duty
called them. Your reading of his-
tory may lead you to regard our for-
bears as rebels; mine, on the other
hand, leads me to exonerate mine
and lay the chief blame on yours.
What profit is there in this?
Those whom we castigate are dead.
Could we have done better; can we
who are living do better in our own
day?

"The historians are right in saying
that the fundamental cause of the
conflict was economic, the desperate
need of the early settlers for
land beating relentlessly against
the stubborn refusal of the
Maoris to sell. War may have been

unavoidable; but I believe it entirely wrong to say that it was inevitable.

"Because more fundamental than the economic pressure is the state of mind and heart which is antecedent to, and gives birth to the act of war. Given humility, goodwill and respect for persons, war is not inevitable, but rather co-operation.

"But that is to anticipate the kind of discipline which we are slowly learning today, a hundred years after the event. Only today, in the inter-dependent and complex multi-racial society is this lesson obvious; it was far from obvious in the hey-day of colonisation. A wind of change is blowing through entire continents, the moral is plain as never before.

"Do not misconstrue these words. We are none of us blameless. We had our intertribal wars. What you called the Maori wars ought to be renamed the pakeha wars (not British wars). By the same token what you terms "rebels" are our heroes; the "murders," reprisal killing; the "victory," our loss.

"And yet, one of our greatest statesmen, the late Sir Apirana Ngata, always stressed this fact—that the Maoris count themselves fortunate that it was the British, rather than any other, who came to colonise New Zealand.

"Because we are today one nation, let us not be too self-satisfied, much less self-righteous. As a nation we are rather given to boasting—the best mutton, the best climate even the best Rugby footballers. In South-east Asia I, like many other Kiwis, extolled the virtues of our excellent race relations; I still think we can be proud of this state of affairs.

"My concern is that it was not always so good, and therefore it may quite conceivably deteriorate again. It is good and chastening for us both, Maori and pakeha, to read New Zealand's early history, not just for those digests which, in pondering to our self-esteem, would suppress or distort the unpleasant facts. If we lose our sense of proportion and humour, we are liable to exacerbate unnecessarily the feelings of others.

"In the same way, unless we are vigilant, on the lookout for hidden rocks, things may happen which would do untold harm to our partnership. If it is true that behind the Waireka fight there was economic distress, no less true is it that the precarious economic future of the Maori is a potential danger. Here I would thank those voluntary associations—Rotary, Jaycees and manufacturers' federations—who have taken a real and lively interest.

"But this and others are visible dangers. Below the stream of our bi-racial, or better, our multi-racial life together is the greater danger. This is the invisible rock, the cold heart, whose existence is betrayed by the surface ripples of narrowness, bigotry and intolerance. However well-ordered our national life, our partnership will founder on this. And nothing less than a radical conversion can root out the stony heart. My own belief is that only the spirit of Christ can accomplish this.

"I think it right that we should have come here to pay our humble tribute, to learn what dangers to avoid, virtues to practise and ideals to follow. I began with a quotation and will end as I began, this time from one who is greater than any English or Maori: 'A new commandment give I unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you'."

1881 - 1972
(MURRAY J. MOORHEAD)

The first event of any note after the Volunteers' involvement in the march to Parihaka in 1881, came in 1884 when an infantry battalion was formed. This was disbanded in 1888, but was reborn as two battalions ten years later. From the ranks of these battalions, a number of men went forth to fight for Queen and country in the South African War, sufficient to entitle the Taranaki battalions to claim the Battle Honour "South Africa" and to emblazon it on any Colours which they might obtain in the future. However, in 1911 the infantry battalions were again disbanded when the Taranaki Rifles Regiment came into being, and any thoughts which may have been entertained for seeking Colours had to be abandoned, as Rifles Regiments do not carry Colours.

With the outbreak of the Great War the Taranaki Regiment was not called upon as a unit, but members made up the Taranaki Company of the Wellington Regiment, thus becoming infantrymen again. The Taranakians served with distinction, again making any future Taranaki infantry regiment eligible to claim the distinguished Battle Honours won by the Wellington Regiment.

After the war, as the Taranaki Regiment, they trained under the compulsory training scheme until 1929 when a volunteer scheme was introduced. By this time planning had been under way for three years for the acquisition of Colours. The first decision had been made in 1926 when a rough design was submitted to Command HQ. But when two years passed, apparently without any action

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being taken, and in August 1928 the Commanding Officer of the Taranaki Regiment, Lieut.-Col. L.H. Jardine, D.S.O., M.C., wrote to the Officer Commanding the Allied Regiment, the Middlesex Regiment, requesting assistance in designing and supervising the making of the new Colours.

Details of the design were then sent to the War Office where, again, they seemed to disappear. A respectful reminder from the Regiment in February 1930 reactivated things, and in April some correspondence was received questions regarding the design. The most pertinent of these were whether the regiment was in fact entitled to the two Battle Honours, Waireka and South Africa, and what the drawing of a mountain on the badge was meant to represent.

Much correspondence on the first question flowed back and forth between the War Office and the regiment, with the former eventually deciding that Waireka was not a bona fide Battle Honour as it had not been awarded to the 65th Regiment who had shared the field with the Volunteers. British regiments had only been awarded the Battle Honour, New Zealand. However, there were no tears shed over the loss of Waireka from the Colours, as the Battle Honour, New Zealand, was unique in this country and the Taranaki Regiment was the only military unit entitled to claim it. On the question of Mount Egmont, which the regiment wished to have included as a centrepiece in the Colours, there was great consternation as the Inspector of Regimental Colours pointed out that it did not conform in any way to the strict rules of heraldry. The upshot was, however, that after full details on the meaning of the mountain to Taranaki had

been submitted, His Majesty the King approved the regulations governing Colours being modified to admit such a badge.

With regard to the Battle Honour, South Africa, it was pointed out that the regiment had failed to apply for the Battle Honour at the appropriate time and had not supplied the list of 20 names of men of the regiment who had served in South Africa as the approved method of gaining entitlement to the Battle Honour. Again there was considerable correspondence, and in March 1933 His Majesty again came to the aid of the regiment with his personal approval of both Battle Honours, New Zealand and South Africa.

The new Colours were presented at Fukekura Park, New Plymouth, in March 1936. Besides the Battle Honours of New Zealand and South Africa, the Colours also carried those of Ypres 1917, Bapaume 1918, Somme 1916-18, Messines 1917, Hindenberg Line, France and Flanders 1916-18, Landing at Anzac, Sari Bair 1915 and Egypt 1915-16. There were other proud Honours which were not emblazoned on the Colours: Fiers Courcelette, Morbal, Le Transloy, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Passchendaele, Arras 1918, Ancre 1918, Albert 1918, Habrincourt, Canal du Nord, Cambrai 1918, Seele, Sambre, Helles, Anzac, Krithia, Defence of Anzac, Suvla and Suez Canal.

In World War Two, Taranaki men served in the 19th, 22nd, 25th and 36th Battalions of 2 N.Z.E.F., again earning a distinguished list of Battle Honours.

In 1948, Government policy, in implementing the new Compulsory Military Training Scheme, saw many old regiments

amalgamated. One of these was the Taranaki Regiment, which was wed to the Wellington West Coast Regiment to form the Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Regiment. Soon after this amalgamation, planning began for the acquisition of new Colours for the new regiment. Apart from the unique Battle Honour, New Zealand, both the amalgamated regiments shared the same Honours of South Africa and for both World Wars. The Battle Honours of World War Two which were to be emblazoned on the new Colours were: Greece 1941, Crete, Sidi Rezegh 1941, Mingar Qaim, El Alamein, North Africa 1940-43, Cassino 1, The Senio, Italy 1943-45, Solomons.

As in the Great War, there were many other very distinguished Honours not borne on the Colour. They were: Mount Olympus, Elasson, Galatas, Withdrawal to Sphakia, Zemla, Arezzo, Cerbaia, Celle, Pisciatello, Bologna, Gaiaha Crossing, Treasury Islands, Servia Pass, Molos, Canea, Sidi Zzeiz, Alem Hamza, Alam el Halfa, Point 201, Enfidaville, Castel Frentano, Monte Lignano, San Michele, Faenza Pocket, Santerno Crossing, Sillaro Crossing, Idice Bridgehead, South Pacific 1942-44, Belhamed, Mersa Matruh, Ruweisat Ridge, El Agheila, Takrouna, Orsogna, Advance to Florence, Paula Line and Rio Fontanaccia.

Despite the years of planning the Colours never came to be a reality, and just as well, as events were to prove. In 1964, in a further reorganisation of New Zealand's Armed Forces, all Territorial infantry regiments became numbered battalions of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. The W.W.C.T. became the 5th Battalion, though

retaining some identity through being able to designate itself as 5th Battalion (W.W.C.T.) R.N.Z.I.R. This change unfortunately cost the unit two distinctions which had been unique to the W.W.C.T. First, the Battle Honour, New Zealand, was inherited by the R.N.Z.I.R. Second, on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the formation of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers in 1959, the W.W.C.T. Regiment was granted the privilege of being allowed to wear miniatures of the regimental badge on their battledress collars. This was lost when the R.N.Z.I.R. became the parent body, as they too wear collar badges.

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